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Council of Ministers Approves INF Treaty

LD221838 Moscow TASS in English 1835 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow January 22 TASS—The USSR Council of Ministers has studied and approved the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles that was signed in Washington on December 8, 1987, it was announced here.

The treaty has now been handed over to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR which will consider the question of its ratification.

Supreme Soviet Discusses INF Ratification

LD251048 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet has started discussing the ratification of the Treaty Between the USSR and the United States on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles which was signed during the Washington summit. In accordance with our Constitution, the ratification of international agreements is a duty of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. In the most important cases international agreements submitted for ratification undergo preliminary examination by the Commissions for Foreign Affairs of both chambers of the supreme body of state authority which provide the appropriate conclusion. This time, too, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium today adopted the decision to pass the treaty agreed on in Washington to the Commissions for Foreign Affair of the Council of the Union and the Council of Nationalities for a preliminary examination of all the aspects and documents related to the treaty while taking account of the points of view voiced, including evaluations by experts and opinions of the Soviet public.

The corresponding conclusion will be prepared, after which the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium will examine the matter of ratifying the treaty at its session. The date of the session will be determined later.

Latest Meetings at Geneva Arms Talks Noted

LD222142 Moscow TASS in English 2038 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Geneva January 22 TASS—Meetings in groups on strategic arms and on space were held here during the past week here within the framework of the regular round of the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space arms.

The Soviet side consistently and in accordance with the agreement reached in Washington steers matters towards the preparation of a draft treaty on a 50 per cent cut in the strategic offensive arms of the Soviet Union and the United States in the conditions of the preservation of the ABM Treaty.

At the January 22 meeting of the Group on Space, the U.S. delegation submitted a draft treaty between the USA and the USSR on some measures promoting a transition on the basis of cooperation to the deployment of a future strategic anti-ballistic missile defence system". [quotation marks as received]

The very title and contents of the U.S. document, unfortunately, do not indicate that the submitted draft treaty is aimed at ensuring strategic stability necessary for effecting a 50 per cent cut in strategic offensive arms.

At the same meeting the delegation of the Soviet Union reaffirmed the Soviet draft protocol (to a future treaty concerning strategic offensive arms) submitted a week ago on the observance of and non-withdrawal from the ABM Treaty within an agreed period.

Reagan Issues New Instructions to Negotiators

LD222036 Moscow TASS in English 1939 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Washington January 22 TASS—According to reports of the U.S. press, President Reagan approved instructions to U.S. negotiators in Geneva telling them to demand Soviet acquiescence to the disputed "broad interpretation" of the ABM Treaty that would allow testing of elements of SDI in space in conditions close to real. The newspaper WASHINGTON POST writes today with a reference to U.S. officials that President Reagan, responding to a secret protest from the joint chiefs of staff has dropped the approach he took at the December summit meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev with regard to SDI programme and the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty.

The article says that Reagan's new instructions were a response to a recent letter from the chairman of the joint chiefs, Admiral William Crowe to National Security Adviser Colin Powell. According to the newspaper, in that secret letter Crowe told Powell that the formula on SDI research agreed to by Reagan and Gorbachev at the summit was unacceptable.

As is known, the joint Soviet-U.S. statement on the results of the summit noted that taking into account the preparation of the treaty on strategic offensive arms, the leaders of the two countries instructed their delegations in Geneva to work out an agreement that would commit the sides to observe the ABM Treaty, as signed in 1972, while conducting their research, development and testing as required, which are permitted by the ABM Treaty, and not to withdraw from the ABM Treaty for a specified period of time.

The WASHINGTON POST writes that the administration's formal position in Geneva is to adhere to the ABM Treaty for seven years, while the Soviet Union has demanded that each side adhere to it for ten years. The newspaper writes that Reagan ordered U.S. negotiators

not to discuss the length of time that both sides must adhere to the ABM Treaty until the Soviets have flatly accepted the so-called broad interpretation.

At the same time, Reagan accepted a recommendation by the joint chiefs of staff and the State Department that the draft U.S. missile defense treaty require both sides to provide six months' notice of withdrawal from the ABM Treaty at the end of an agreed period of commitment to it.

Further Report

LD231920 Moscow TASS in English 1811 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Washington January 23 TASS—The White House reported on Friday that in line with instructions received from President Reagan, the U.S. delegation at the Geneva negotiations tabled on that day a draft understanding setting out the U.S. stand on tests under the SDI programme and the ABM Treaty. However the draft, the UPI agency reports, leaves unresolved the important question of future limitations on deploying elements of "the Strategic Defense Initiative".

White House Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater claimed that the draft understanding worked out by the administration included the wordings (with respect to development studies and tests under the SDI programme and the ABM Treaty—TASS note) contained in the joint Soviet-American top-level statement. But, according to U.S. press reports, instructions given by President Reagan to U.S. representatives at the Geneva talks direct them to get from the Soviet Union agreement to a "broad interpretation" of the ABM Treaty, which will permit space tests of SDI elements, simulating real conditions. The White House spokesman refuted these reports as erroneous but pointed out, nevertheless, that the administration abided, as before, by "broad interpretation" of the ABM Treaty and did not change its position.

Confusing explanations by Fitzwater puzzled journalists who showered him with questions. He tried to divert their attention, claiming that now the focus of the debate shifted at the Geneva talks. According to him, now they will centre not on the problem of narrow interpretation vs. broad interpretation of the ABM Treaty but on wordings permitting to conduct tests of SDI elements, if need be.

However, he intimated at once that the U.S. Administration was against the drafting of a list of systems to be banned from placing into space under the ABM Treaty. It is common knowledge that last year the Soviet Union proposed that both a list of such systems be agreed upon and their parameters and levels of technical characteristics be defined. Everything below such levels could be tested, since this would have nothing to do with the ABM Treaty. But the White House spokesman said that the USA was against (as before) drafting a list of specific tests under the SDI. In other words, the Washington Administration is seeking to preserve a chance of conducting future tests of SDI elements in line with the so-called broad interpretation of the ABM Treaty, which is, in actual fact, a withdrawal from the treaty.

Thatcher Favors U.S. Senate Passage of INF Accord

LD231056 Moscow TASS in English 1038 GMT 23 Jan 88

["Thatcher Favours Ratification of INF Treaty"—TASS headline]

[Text] New York January 23 TASS—British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said she had "no doubt whatsoever" that the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles ought to be ratified by the U.S. Senate.

If the United States does not ratify the treaty, it would be a "disaster" and would undermine the U.S. President's authority, she said in interviews to four American television networks: CBS, ABC, NBC and CNN.

The prime minister pointed to the importance of Soviet-U.S. negotiations on cuts on strategic arms, emphasising that any new arms control agreement should be accompanied by reliable verification measures.

At the same time, Thatcher reiterated her view that nuclear weapons should not be given up completely since, she claims, they help preserve peace.

The prime minister said NATO should have nuclear weapons as a counterbalance to the Warsaw treaty's "immense superiority" in conventional weapons.

U.S. Missile Photos Fail To Comply With Treaty

LD221442 Moscow World Service in English 1400 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] A senior Soviet Military official has said that the United States has to date failed to comply with a number of important commitments under the agenda [as heard] to the INF Treaty. A chief of a department of the Soviet General Staff, General Nikolay Chervov, told a news conference here in Moscow that the point at issue was photographs of American missiles supposed to be eliminated.

He said that the missiles should, in keeping with the rules developed by Soviet and American experts, be photographed at a certain distance and angle. On each photograph there must be a scale showing the size of the missile. The pictures of the missiles the United States has presented fail to meet either requirement. Gen Chervov said that the United States' ambassador in Moscow, Mr Matlock, had been repeatedly reminded about this but Washington had failed to present appropriate photographs to this day.

Gen Chervov also said that the United States had not given the Soviet Union the exact geographic location of the sites where the missiles would be eliminated although the agreement signed by the Soviet and American leaders contained requirements to this effect.

Editorial Article on Offensive, Defensive Arms

PM241815 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Jan 88 First Edition p 6

[Editorial article: "A Real Chance of Radically Reducing Strategic Offensive Arms Provided the ABM Treaty Is Observed"]

[Text] Soviet-American negotiations on nuclear and space arms are continuing in Geneva. This is now the ninth round but it is of special significance. Behind lie the tense diplomatic battles surrounding intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. By having signed the Treaty on Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles in Washington, the leaders of the two powers have demonstrated that the elimination of the most up-to-date nuclear missile armaments is a feasible business. Also of importance is the fact that it was decided to embark without any lengthy pauses upon the businesslike examination of the question of a radical reduction of the most menacing and destructive variety of these weapons—strategic offensive arms.

The reduction of strategic offensive arms is a complex problem. Suffice it to say that the draft treaty on which the delegations are working in Geneva amounts to hundreds of pages. But the task is being facilitated by the fact that much attention was paid to this problem at the Soviet-American summit meeting and that progress was registered [zafiksirovano prodvizheniye vpered]. Using the Reykjavik accord on a 50% reduction of strategic offensive arms as a basis, the most important parameters of a future treaty were confirmed and substantially developed during the Washington dialogue.

Agreement was reached that the maximum ceiling for delivery vehicles for strategic offensive arms would not exceed 1,600 units, while the ceiling for warheads for them would not exceed 6,000 units. The sides also agreed to establish a ceiling of 4,900 units for the total number of warheads of ICBM's and SLBM's within the total ceiling of 6,000 warheads. There is also an understanding concerning the total throw weight of ballistic missiles and also on certain basic measures with whose aid the monitoring of the implementation of the treaty's provisions will become possible.

These and other fundamental guidelines approved by the leaders of the two countries serve as directives for those who have set about work at the negotiating table in Geneva. Along with the experience acquired in discussing the problem of eliminating intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, these reference points provide a real chance of achieving a mutually acceptable accord.

However, one must not shut one's eyes to the considerable problems and difficulties too. Agreement still has to be reached on specific procedures for monitoring the implementation of provisions of a treaty; on a mutually acceptable solution to the question of limiting the deployment of long-range sea-launched cruise missiles equipped with nuclear warheads, and also on a number of other important issues.

One of the most acute and paramount issues is, perhaps, the problem of the interconnection of strategic offensive and defensive arms. The fact that such a link is an organic one has been proven by centuries of experience. The development of offensive arms has always stimulated the improvement of defensive means. And on the other hand the limitation of defensive arms leads to restraint in the development of offensive arms. This interconnection which objectively exists, is reflected in the ABM Treaty which notes, in particular: "Effective measures to limit ABM systems would be a substantial factor in curbing the race in strategic offensive arms and would lead to a decrease in the risk of outbreak of war involving nuclear weapons."

Ignoring this interconnection, the advocates of SDI in the United States are insisting that with a formal retention of the ABM Treaty during the agreed term, freedom of action should remain for the preparation and testing of everything necessary for the creation of a large-scale ABM system with space-based elements. Their calculation is clear: When preparatory work has been completed and the possibility of realizing the SDI appears, the ABM Treaty could be cast aside. It is not fortuitous that on the eve of the resumption of the Geneva talks, right-wing circles in the United States were insisting that an accord on a 50% reduction of strategic offensive arms should in no event affect the SDI project.

It is obvious, however, that in the interests of an accord on the reduction of strategic offensive arms, the participants in the negotiations must proceed from the mandate given to them by the leaders of the two countries at the Washington meeting, namely: "Draw up an accord which would make it incumbent upon the sides to observe the ABM Treaty—in the form in which it was signed in 1972—in the process of carrying out research and development and, where necessary, testing as permitted by the ABM Treaty, and not to withdraw from the ABM Treaty during the agreed term."

The Soviet Union is guided strictly by this provision of the joint Soviet-American statement. This stance of the Soviet Union is embodied in the draft "Protocol to the Treaty Between the USSR and the United States on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms" which was recently submitted in Geneva.

The Soviet Union, M.S. Gorbachev observed, considers the presentation of the question of a 50% reduction of strategic offensive arms to be realistic. However, the Soviet Union is resolutely opposed to that fact that now,

when the disarmament process is acquiring real shape, someone should begin in a roundabout way to develop an arms race in other directions. The attempts to transfer the arms race into space are, in particular, precisely such a flanking maneuver. It these attempts are not nipped in the bud the whole strategic situation will be destabilized and this will provoke extremely serious consequences.

At the Washington meeting, the American and Soviet negotiators in Geneva were given a mandate to accelerate the solution of questions contained in the text of the joint draft treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive arms. Before them stands the task of preparing for signature during a new Soviet-American summit in the first half of the current year a draft treaty on a 50% reduction of the sides' strategic offensive arms. This responsible assignment can be fulfilled only provided that the participants in the negotiations display the maximum flexibility and constructiveness in discussing the complex problem which is vitally important for the fate of peace, and if there is no room for attempts to ensure one's own interests at the expense of the interests of one's partner.

The reduction of U.S. and USSR strategic offensive arms by one-half would become not simply the next step after the agreement on the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. Such an accord would be a breakthrough toward a nuclear-free world in a general direction [na generalnom napravlenii]. It is no accident that this measure was envisaged as the most important at the first two stages of the plan for the elimination of all nuclear arms which was promulgated by the Soviet Union on 15 January 1986. The implementation of this measure would be a radical turning point for the better in the international arena and would help to overcome confrontational tendencies which have operated in recent years and to build confidence in relations between states, and ultimately it would help to free large sums for peaceful development and for the improvement of the well-being of the peoples.

Promoting the attainment of this goal is the main meaning and content of the present crucial stage of the Geneva negotiations.

CW Working Group Session Begins in Geneva

LD231246 Moscow TASS in English 1216 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Geneva January 23 TASS—The 13th session of the chemical weapons' working group of the Pugwash session opened in Geneva today. 65 representatives from different countries of the world, specialists on problems of disarmament and chemical weapons, and also the chemical industry, are attending the two-day session.

The participants in the session are discussing such important problems as prohibition of production of new types of chemical weapons, the guarantee of efficiency of international control over production of chemical substances that can be used for development of chemical weapons, and other problems.

Nazarkin Interviewed on Chemical Weapons Ban

AU241600 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 21 Jan 88 p 7

[Interview with Yuriy Nazarkin, head of the Soviet delegation to the Geneva Disarmament Conference on the Elimination and Ban of Chemical Weapons, by RUDE PRAVO staff journalists Miroslav Courton and Milan Jelinek: "The Most Difficult Thing Is Control"—in Prague during Nazarkin's recent visit]

[Excerpts] Prague (Our Correspondents)—The latest round of talks on the elimination and ban of the production of chemical weapons began in Geneva a few days ago. The Soviet delegation to these talks is headed by Yuriy Nazarkin, who at the same time heads the Soviet delegation to the Geneva Disarmament Conference. RUDE PRAVO used Y. Nazarkin's visit to Prague as an opportunity to interview him.

[Question] What place do the talks on the elimination of chemical weapons play in the disarmament process?

[Nazarkin] Chemical weapons belong to the category of mass destruction weapons, and thus, it is obviously necessary to eliminate them. After the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles was finally signed in Washington, and thus the first step in nuclear disarmament was made, chemical weapons, together with talks on a 50% reduction in strategic weapons, will have their turn. This involves accelerated talks with the goal of banning them entirely.

I would like to explain the following here: We are not setting any order, first the conclusion of an agreement on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, then an agreement on a 50% reduction of strategic weapons, and then chemical weapons. Such an order does not exist. All talks must be conducted in parallel. [passage omitted]

[Question] What is the present status of the talks?

[Nazarkin] We have said and are saying that the possibility of concluding a convention on the elimination and ban of chemical weapons exists. Such a possibility also existed in 1987, and this applies to this year, too. I would say we could even arrive at an agreement in the first half-year.

We proceed from that, that the fundamental issues were in principle practically resolved at the Geneva talks. This happened because the Soviet Union already came forward in 1986, and particularly in 1987, with a number of—in my view—revolutionary proposals. For example, we agreed to mandatory inspections on the basis of the other side's request without the right to refuse. On 6 August 1987 our minister of foreign affairs announced

from the lectern of the Disarmament Conference that we are prepared to agree to these inspections, which eliminated a very serious obstacle. We also came to an agreement on carrying out regular inspections on permanent basis in plants and facilities. [passage omitted]

Of course, one can arrive at a convention only if all participants in the talks are in agreement. Right now, the main obstacle to reaching an agreement are the positions of the United States. In essence the 1984 positions of the United States, when they submitted their idea of a possible agreement-convention have remained the same, and they are not giving up these positions. At talks their position is extremely passive, and they are not resolving the issues that crop up. In our assessment this reflects the current U.S. Government's lack of preparedness [nepripravenost], its unwillingness to make corresponding political decisions. In the background there is the wish to continue the production of binary weapons. In this context some of the articles which appeared in the American press saying that Washington contemplates some sort of partial steps, not the total ban on chemical weapons, are understandable then. For example, Vice President Bush expressed this in a very vague way at the beginning of December, when he proposed a partial ban as the first step. It seems that in this way the Americans are trying to reach an agreement which would enable them to maintain the production of binary weapons. [passage omitted]

[Question] Why is the issue in connection with control of the production of chemical weapons so complex?

[Nazarkin] There exist two types of difficulties: The first one is that all participating countries must be guaranteed that other states report all their stockpiles and production enterprises. The question is how to ascertain whether a pertinent country has really reported everything truthfully. We regard this as the main problem and we are trying to resolve it by checks that would be so strict that they would discourage any state from cheating. These inspections are literally pushing everyone to the limit, because his political authority and international prestige is at stake.

The second difficulty is that, in harmony with the convention, not only the stockpiles of chemical weapons and their production facilities will have to be eliminated, but also the possibility of their production. Thus, understandably, the problem of the control of general chemical production as well crops up. A control regimen or some sort of inspection must exist here too.

The first difficulty is a purely technical matter, while the second one concerns political as well as economical interests, because even if the states participating in the convention would have no objection to the ban on the production of chemical weapons, they do not wish restrictions on their chemical production.

[Question] You conduct, for the Soviet side, talks on concluding a convention on the elimination of chemical weapons. How do you feel about— according to information arriving from the Iran-Iraqi front—where these weapons have been allegedly deployed?

[Nazarkin] Concern, great concern. This is one of the reasons why we propose that the convention bans not only the production of chemical weapons, but also their sale or the transfer of production technology to other states. This is in order to also prevent the production of these weapons in countries which will not join the convention, even though we, obviously, strive to have the convention signed by the greatest possible number of states. This idea of ours has met with agreement in principle and is contained in the draft of the convention. This would be a radical solution, but, so far, the convention has not been concluded, and the participants in deliberations, experts, must show certain restraint. [passage omitted]

West European Defense Policies Reviewed

LD240723 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2245 GMT 23 Jan 88

["'PRAVDA': Over to Our Partners"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Jan (TASS)—Not all Western European leaders pursue policies that are in accord with the demands of the present day, writes PRAVDA. Voices can be heard from London and Paris which clearly are in conflict with general European trends and realities, notes the paper's international review. There is insistence there on preserving nuclear missiles, but to be sure, British missiles certainly are not aimed across the Atlantic and French ones are not pointing at New Caledonia. Now, when the question of sharply reducing the central strategic systems of the USSR and the United States has been raised in practical terms, the question of the nuclear weapons of Britain and France is taking on a concrete poignancy and gives rise to well-founded concern on the part of the Soviet Union and its allies—all the more so since Paris lately has been obsessed with ideas about a new type of West European defense system and about setting up a joint military brigade with the FRG and joint research with the British in the area of nuclear missiles. When it comes to preserving nuclear weapons, London "is no slacker" either in denying the possibility of a "triple-zero": the complete elimination of tactical nuclear systems. How quickly M. Thatcher has forgotten her own words about the unprecedented, the dearest "Christmas present" to mankind: the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range nuclear missiles. Or is the British prime minister of the opinion that nuclear weapons are the prerogative of Moscow and Washington, while London and Paris will just sit on their own nuclear missiles like brood hens?

All this comes at a time when the very dynamics of disarmament make it possible to turn 1988 into "Europe year," continues PRAVDA, meaning a serious "unburdening" of our continent, stuffed as it is with assorted weapons. But first and foremost there is the "infrastructure": Helsinki, Stockholm, the Budapest initiative by the socialist countries, the "Jaruzelski plan," the Palme Commission's idea to set up a nuclear-free corridor in the center of Europe, a complete ban on chemical weapons, etc. The Soviet side put forward specific proposals on this score in Madrid this week and hope was expressed that the Vienna meeting would end on a positive note, with accords on all three Helsinki "baskets," but as yet these and other proposals are still in the negotating table today, awaiting a decision. They must be resolved on the basis of justice. We are ready for such talks. Over to our partners.

Kozyakov Views U.S. Missile Testing in Canada

LD230914 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Vladislav Kozyakov commentary]

[Text] One more American cruise missile has been tested in Canada. It was launched from a B-52 bomber of the Beaufort Sea and flew 2,500 km to land outside the Cold Lake military base. Here is a commentary from our observer, Vladislav Kozyakov.

It would be interesting to recall that Washington and Ottawa agreed on the missiles to be tested in Canada back in 1983, when the United States was embarking upon its largest program of nuclear rearmament. The idea of gaining military superiority was dominating the American politics and the Pentagon was seeking a potential that would enable it to deliver a first nuclear strike. Amid the calls for a crusade against the Soviet Union, Canada was involved in testing American weapons.

Since then, the international situation has undergone many changes. People round the globe have described as history-shaping the Soviet-American treaty signed last month to ban two classes of nuclear missiles. Both the enforcement of the treaty and the working out of an agreement on reducing by half the Soviet and American strategic offensive weapons seem to be close at hand. The nations have set out for a real disarmament and have been searching for new approaches to many problems. No wonder many Canadians have been outraged by the testing of the American long-range cruise missile last Sunday! As the missile was flying over the Northwest Territories and Alberta Province, demonstrators in 32 Canadian cities urged the government to withdraw from the American testing program. In a recent opinion poll, 84% of the polled Canadians said no to the testing.

Back in 1983, when American and Canadian military planners were discussing the testing agreement, they pointed out to similar landscapes in the northern regions of Canada and the Soviet Union. At the time, they were planning to use that similarity for the purposes of confrontation and war preparations. The recent changes in the international climate give more prominence than ever to the opposite approach: of using similar landscapes to promote cooperation to the benefit of three nations: Canada, the United States, and the Soviet Union. Recently, this country has set out new initiatives to turn the northern regions of the earth into a zone of peace.

Specialists Leave for Nuclear Test Site

LD241504 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1410 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow, 24 Jan (TASS)—A group of 20 Soviet specialists left for the United States today to make a reciprocal visit to the nuclear testing site in Nevada. U.S. specialists visited a Soviet testing site in the area of Semipalatinsk in the first half of January.

An accord on mutual visits to Soviet and U.S. testing sites was reached during the Washington summit meeting in December 1987.

The trips by Soviet and U.S. specialists to each other's testing sites should ensure mutual acquaintance with the testing sites and the work being carried out there in order to promote successful preparations for the holding of a joint monitoring [kontrol] experiment with the aim of working out a combination of effective monitoring measures for the 1974 treaty on limiting underground tests of nuclear weapons and the 1976 treaty on underground nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, as well as for possible future agreements on further nuclear test limitations.

These trips are an inalienable part of the full-scale Soviet-U.S. talks on the limitation and termination of nuclear tests which are being held in Geneva.

Experts Arrive in Nevada

LD251009 Moscow TASS in English 0937 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] San Francisco January 25 TASS—A group of Soviet experts have arrived in Las Vegas, Nevada, for a tour of the U.S. nuclear test site in keeping with an understanding reached between the two countries last November.

The group is being led by Ambassador Igor Palyonykh, head of the Soviet delegation to full-scale talks with the United States for limiting nuclear testing and eventually terminating it altogether.

The Soviet experts' visit follows a similar tour of the Soviet nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk by a group of U.S. specialists earlier this month.

The Soviet visitors were met by officials from the U.S. Energy Department.

The leader of the Soviet group said the aim of the reciprocal acquaintance tours of the test ranges is to come to terms on a joint Soviet-American experiment to work out effective measures to monitor the yields of nuclear tests.

"Continuing the work started at Semipalatinsk, we hope that during this visit we shall be able to determine the ways and means for limiting and ultimately stopping all nuclear testing," Ambassador Palyonykh said.

News Conference Held on N. Europe Naval Proposals

Uspenskiy on Security

LD221434 Moscow TASS in English 1355 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow January 22 (TASS)—"There is only one way of solving the problem of mankind's survival and it equally applies to the area of the North Atlantic and the Arctic: there must be a peaceful alternative to military and political confrontation", it was stated by Nikolay Uspenskiy, head of the 2nd European Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He spoke today at a press conference on ways of ensuring security and stability in the north of Europe.

"It was precisely this road of development in the north that the Soviet Union proposed when the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev proposed a multifaceted action programme in his speech in Murmansk on October 1, 1987. Given the political will of all interested sides these actions could bring about a radical reduction of military confrontation in the north of the planet and the turning of the world's polar and near-polar areas into a genuine zone of peace and fruitful cooperation", Nikolay Uspenskiy said.

"The meaning of the Murmansk initiatives", the representative of the Soviet Ministry said, "is being increasingly realised by politicians and the public. They have become a subject of widespread discussion and of diplomatic work. On making a thorough analysis of the reaction in the Nordic and other countries to the Murmansk initiatives the Soviet leadership has again returned to these issues and given them more serious thought. It considered what could be done additionally in order to start translating the Murmansk proposals into concrete deeds. The USSR's new proposals were discussed during the official visits to Sweden and Norway by the Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Nikolay Ryzhkov. The public at large has been informed of them. In these new proposals the USSR tried to take into account the remarks, including critical ones, made both in the Nordicf and other countries".

"Difficult and painstaking work on all aspects of the Murmansk initiatives lies ahead, and this is realised in the Soviet Union", Nikolay Uspenskiy stated further. "The USSR is prepared for this and will press hard for progress, will constructively search for common denominators on all questions. The main thing is to start a diplomatic process leading to the strengthening of security and trust in the north of Europe".

Chervov on Proposals

LD221451 Moscow TASS in English 1432 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow January 22 (TASS)— "The USSR has taken a clear stand in support of a nuclear-free north", it was stated by Colonel General Chervov, head of a directorate at the USSR General Staff. He spoke today at a press conference devoted to ways of ensuring security and stability in the north of Europe.

"We confirm our readiness to discuss with the interested states all the problems connected with the creation of a nuclear free zone, including possible measures related to Soviet territory. For instance, to withdraw from the Baltic fleet submarines armed with nuclear ballistic missiles. The Soviet Union proposes an exchange of views on the problem of the nuclear-free zone with representatives of the Nordic countries", General Chervov stated further.

The north of Europe holds a very important place in the Soviet concept of security. Nikolay Chervov said. "The waters of the northern seas are zones of the confrontation of major naval forces of the two military alliances. We have grown accustomed to think that the risk of war may arise on land but it cannot be ruled out that this might happen at sea. The United States and NATO have a big naval superiority over the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Treaty countries. And the buildup of naval forces continues. We regard as particularly dangerous the process of equipping U.S. ships with sea based long-range cruise missiles intended for hitting targets on the territory of the Soviet Union and other Warsaw treaty countries. But quite obviously these missiles will fly first of all over the territory of Scandinavian countries".

"The concrete proposals made by Mikhail Gorbachev in Murmansk on October 1, 1987 accord with the national interests of Scandinavian countries and the West as a whole", the representative of the Soviet General Staff said. "During his visits to Sweden and Norway Nikolay Ryzhkov concretised our positions on a number of the Murmansk initiatives. Specifically the Soviet Union proposes to begin consultations between the Warsaw Treaty Organisation and NATO on the scaling down of military activity and restricting naval and air force activity in the Baltic, North, Norwegian and Greenland Sea, to apply confidence-building measures to them and to include the Barents Sea into the zone of confidence-building measures".

Nikolay Chervov named such possible concrete measures as agreements on limiting rivalry in anti-submarine weaponry, on notification of major naval and air force exercises, on the invitation to them of observers from all member-states of the European process. "Without waiting for the solution of the question of confidence-building measures in sea areas adjoining Europe the Soviet Union intends to invite observers from Nordic countries to one of the Soviet naval exercises in 1988. This is a unilateral measure on our part and we count on reciprocity in this matter", he said further.

"Scandinavia's security should be sought not in an intensification of the NATO bloc's naval activity in the

region but in its reduction, in the development of confidence-building measures at sea and the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the north of Europe", the representative of the Soviet General Staff stressed.

TV Report on Participants

LD222110 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Jan 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A news conference was held in Moscow today. Uspenskiy, the head of the Second European Department of the USSR Foreign Ministry, recalled the essence of the series of initiatives advanced by Comrade Gorbachev last October in Murmansk, aimed at securing security and stability in northern Europe. During Comrade Ryzhkov's recent official visit to Sweden and Norway, it was graphically manifested that these initiatives are still alive and are increasingly deeply penetrating the consciousness of politicians and the public.

Speaking about the military aspect of the Murmansk initiatives, Colonel General Chervov, head of a directorate of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, said:

[Begin Chervov recording] We have become accustomed, somehow, to thinking that the risk of war could arise on land. However, it is not excluded that there could be such a risk of war at sea as well, and to an even greater extent than on land. This is because at present all military activity of ground forces is under control [kontrol] by the confidence measures worked out by the Stockholm conference. Finally, now negotiations and discussions are under way at the Vienna meeting, where ground troops are in fact the subject of discussion. Yet naval forces—in spite of the fact that negotiations have been under way for over 20 years, if you take negotiations on disarmament and security as a whole—remain outside the scope of the negotiations.

During his visit to Scandinavia, Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov made more specific the Murmansk initiatives on a number of positions.

We propose, in the first place, to come to an agreement on restricting rivalry in antisubmarine weapons.

Second, we propose to disseminate notification of all exercises of naval and air forces. In accordance with the Stockholm agreement, we give notification only of exercises involving ground troops.

We propose to invite observers to exercises of naval forces, from representatives of all states involved in the all-European process.

We propose to come to agreement on the areas where the operation of antisubmarine forces and means should be banned. In this connection, the Soviet Union is ready to restrict the number of major exercises of naval forces; the Soviet Union has expressed readiness, on a mutual basis, for any measures to monitor [kontrol] restriction of military activity of naval forces. [end recording]

[Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland at 2000 GMT on 22 January adds the following: "He [Chervov] voiced the Soviet Union's readiness to limit the number of large-scale naval games and to simultaneously reduce the number of naval ships, aircraft, and servicemen."]

[Unidentified announcer] Malkevich, chairman of the board of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, stressed that the restructuring being carried out in our country, as well as the Murmansk initiatives, will act as a stimulus to further development of economic cooperation in northern Europe.

Replies were given to journalists' questions on the problems that were touched on. [video shows press conference in progress, speakers on platform: Malkevich, Uspenskiy, Gremitskikh, Chervov (left to right on screen), shots of audience]

Lebedev Interviewed on Northern Europe Limits

PM211921 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 3, 17 Jan 88 p 5

[Interview with Armed Forces General Staff spokesman Major General Yuriy Lebedev by Vladimir Brodetskiy: "Alternative for the Arctic. Interview at the USSR Armed Forces General Staff"]

[Text] Three and a half months ago Mikhail Gorbachev in his speech in Murmansk made proposals for mutual limitation of military activities of the countries of the Warsaw Treaty Organization (WTO) and NATO, in northern Europe. Here Maj Gen Yuriy Lebedev, spokesman for the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, answers "MN" questions in connection with this Soviet initiative.

MN: What was the reason for the proposals?

Yu. L: The European, North American and Asian-Pacific regions come together in the Arctic, and borders of states both belonging and not belonging to different military alliances also come together.

The militarization of this part of the world has achieved threatening proportions. The North Atlantic, for example, has turned into a zone of confrontation of the biggest naval and air force groupings of NATO and WTO countries. Here the risk of a military clash is just as great as it is on land, and is becoming more dangerous since NATO and the USA are constantly building up their naval and air force might.

The number of large warships (aircraft carriers, both for planes and helicopters, cruisers and destroyers) and war planes of NATO in the North Atlantic exceeds that of the

USSR's naval forces by nearly 100 per cent. Washington's programme for deploying 4,000 cruise missiles on the US Navy warships, most of which are intended for taking part in sea and ocean operations in the northern operational direction, causes special anxiety. If we take into account that there are plans for 800 of these missiles to carry nuclear warheads and that the USAF is also being hurriedly armed with similar weapons, then the concern of the northern countries and of the USSR for their security becomes quite understandable.

Also causing concern is the stepping up of the naval and air force activities of the USA and NATO in the Baltic, North, Norwegian and Greenland Seas, the testing operations for "suppressing" the USSR Navy in the vicinity of the Soviet ports at the "beginning stage of a possible conflict", and the blockading of Warsaw Treaty naval forces in their bases. The nuclear submarines of the US Navy are busy mastering the Arctic region. The USA has also increased the activity of its anti-sub forces in the region. US planes make regular flights to Arctic regions. Canada has also started to "master" the Arctic militarily.

All this shows that the USA is going all out to realize its concept of forward-based sea frontiers in its "Polar strategy". This is why the USSR has proposed to discuss, first and foremost, with the states in this region, the military threat that has been mounting there over a long period of time.

MN: What is NATO's reaction to the Soviet proposals in general?

Yu. L: The NATO leadership's reaction is negative and promises little as yet. Even on the question of a nuclear-free zone in northern Europe, where the USSR could go as far as removing from the Soviet Balatic Fleet submarines carrying ballistic missiles, the NATO countries are demonstrating a negative stand. The USA is expressing especial obstinacy. As soon as the INF Treaty was signed Washington took energetic steps to persuade the north European governments to reject the intention of turning that region into a nuclear-free zone. The main argument used by the USA was that in today's conditions the West badly needs a powerful nuclear capacity and has to continue a policy based on force and nuclear deterrence.

However, the movement for a non-nuclear north has already acquired massive proportions. Over 95 percent of Finns, 80 percent of Swedes and 70 percent of Norwegians and Icelanders share the idea of setting up a nuclear-free zone in northern Europe. The subject is also being discussed intensely at governmental levels, which suggests that a practical dialogue on a non-nuclear north is inevitable.

MN.: What practical steps can the USSR take to ease tensions in the northern region?

Yu.L.: The following steps could be taken:

1. A joint discussion with the countries of northern Europe of the possible regional measures of confidence at a lower level than envisaged in the relevant conclusions of the Stockholm Conference, and including elements of "non-offensive defence", a sharp limitation of the scope of military exercises and other activities in agreed-upon regions;

2. The signing, on a bilateral or a multilateral basis, of agreements on averting incidents in the sea and in the airspace over it, which might spread over the whole of northern Europe;

3. The determining of Warsaw Treaty and NATO zones of naval activity, with account taken of multilateral shipping and fishing;

4. The consideration of proposals for setting up in the North and West Atlantic agreed-upon regions where the activities of anti-sub forces of both alliances would be banned. The practical deployment, the size of these regions and measures connected with setting them up could be discussed by WTO and NATO military experts;

5. Agreements on the indicators of large-scale exercises by the navies and air forces (number of warships taking part, of planes, amphibious forces, personnel, etc.) and measures for limiting the number of exercises held in the zones of the Baltic, North, Norwegian and Greenland Seas to one-two in one or two years;

6. Preliminary notification of naval exercises and verification by observers invited to the zone in question.

MN: There is persistent talk in the West about plans for "compensation" of the destroyed missiles by other types of weapons after the signing of the INF Treaty. What are the plans regarding the northern seas and what might their consequences be?

Yu. L.: "Compensation" of the reduced nuclear missiles by other types of weapons must not be allowed. The Treaty on the liquidation of the two classes of nuclear weapons is not an episode in international politics, but the beginning of the road to the complete annihilation of nuclear weapons. However, the NATO leaders have already started preparing plans for rearming the bloc. The functions of the US ground-launched cruise missiles to be destroyed are to be taken over by air-launched cruise missiles and by the F-111 bombers.

It is planned to arm the British submarines with the new Trident 2 ballistic missiles. They will be patrolling the same waters as the submarines carrying Polarises, that is, westwards of Ireland. This is supposed to replace the Pershing 2 missiles. Other measures to rearm NATO by drawing into Europe and surrounding areas new US nuclear forces are also being considered.

Such plans are, essentially, an invitation to the other side to join in the race so as to liquidate US-NATO superiority. In fact, this is an appeal to carry on the arms race on a regional level. In this way it is impossible to strengthen peace and security in the region, but the risk of an armed conflict erupting will mount greatly and the accumulated nuclear capability may blow up due to an accident in some other region of the world.

Economic Cooperation With North Europe Viewed

LD221531 Moscow TASS in English 1508 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow January 22 TASS—"During Nikolay Ryzhkov's official visit to Sweden and Norway the sides were unanimous that both Soviet-Swedish and Soviet-Norwegian trade-and-economic contacts did not yet correspond to the level of current political relations and that there existed considerable potentialities for their development," Vladislav Malkevich, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said here today at a press conference on the subject "Ways To Ensure Security and Stability in Europe's North."

The restructuring being effected in the Soviet Union as well as the Murmansk initiatives concerning cooperation in Europe's north give an impetus to further development of economic cooperation with Sweden and Norway. Vladislav Malkevich pointed out that "the Soviet Union's cooperation with Sweden and Norway in the field of energy has been limited so far to the deliveries of Soviet energy carriers and, first of all, crude oil, oil products, power coal and a small amount of electric power to Norway". Services were also rendered to enrich raw uranium for Swedish nuclear power stations.

Vyadislav Malkevich emphasized that years-long talks were concluded during Nikolay Ryzhkov's visit to Sweden, and letters of intent were signed on the delivery of Soviet natural gas to Sweden.

"It was suggested that the Swedish side consider the question of elaborating a program for cooperation in the field of the power industry," he pointed out. "To begin with, it could be a question of the Soviet Union's joining the power system of Nordic countries 'Nordel'. Electric power could become an item of export to Sweden".

Special attention during meetings with representatives of the business communities of Sweden and Norway was devoted to projects for cooperation in comprehensive processing of mineral resources on the Kola Peninsula. Long-term cooperation is meant.

Touching upon the development of the shelf of Barents Sea, the Soviet Union suggested that the leadership of Norway consider the question of establishing a special zone of Soviet-Norwegian partnership in the area.

"Partnership in such a zone," the Soviet spokesman pointed out, "could include joint activities in the spirit of full equality and mutual benefit". Vladislav Malkevich said that talks were under way on the establishment of a number of Soviet-Swedish joint-venture enterprises together with Swedish and Norwegian firms in various branches of the economy.

"The realisation of the projects put forward within the framework of the Murmansk initiatives will help bring trade-and-economic relations with Sweden and Norway to the level worthy of neighbouring peoples", the chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry said in conclusion.

Shevardnadze on Occupied Territories, Other Issues

JN241609 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 23 Jan 88 pp 1, 25

[By Shawqi al-Rayyis from Madrid]

[Text] In exclusive statements to AL-QABAS, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has said that "the Soviet Union has urged UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to discuss the current situation in the occupied Arab territories within the Security Council framework as soon as possible and with the utmost degree of vigor and dynamism." Shevardnadze made these statements while answering AL-QABAS' questions following his press conference in the Spanish capital, before ending an official 3-day visit to Madrid.

Asked about the Soviet Union's assessment of the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the Kremlin's present policy toward this issue, he said: "We are following up, with extreme regret and profound concern, the painful events that the occupied territories have been witnessing for more than a month. The latest reports note that the seriousness and severity of these events are escalating. I have told some of my colleagues that, upon the Soviet Government's instructions, I have sent an urgent message to the UN secretary general urging him to discuss the situation in the occupied Arab territories within the Security Council framework as soon as possible and with the utmost degree of vigor and dynamism. In my message, I proposed to the UN secretary general that the Security Council, after the necessary consultations, hold sessions devoted to discussing this serious situation on the level of the foreign ministers of the permanent Security Council members. The situation in the Middle East has become quite complicated, so it is necessary and pressing to launch a dynamic and a very active move by the Security Council—a move that is beyond statements and resolutions of condemnation."

Regarding the Gulf war and its latest developments, Shevardnadze denied that this war is currently assuming a secondary position on the Soviet diplomatic priority list. he added: "The Iraq-Iran war and the situation in the Gulf region are still the focus of attention for Soviet diplomacy. We still adopt the stand that calls for ending

this conflict under UN auspices and for forming an international naval force to safeguard merchant shipping in the region. All our efforts are focused on this direction."

Regarding the Afghan war and whether he expects Soviet troops to withdraw from Afghanistan this year, Shevardnadze said: "The pains from which the Afghan people are suffering due to this war are also our pains. We inherited this situation, and we had no option but to accept it as it was. However, we should discuss ways to tackle this situation. Comrade Gorbachev asserted in Washington that our troops' withdrawal from Afghanistan may take place in 12 months if the ongoing UN-sponsored Afghan-Pakistan negotiations in Geneva succeed. I believe that if these negotiations succeed next month, then the withdrawal can possibly take place in less than a year."

Regarding the attention the two superpowers paid to famine, poverty, malnutrition, and backwardness on the sidelines of the talks on nuclear and chemical weapons and regional conflicts, the Soviet minister said, after some contemplation and clear attention: There are comprehensive world interests and human values that influence all mankind and for whose sake we should work. We discuss and negotiate disarmament out of our conviction that the resources devoted or allocated to the manufacture or purchase of weapons should be dedicated to psychological [as published] purposes. I will not give you figures at present because we are still at the beginning of the road. We will wait until the second treaty on offensive strategic weapons is concluded to learn about the cost of building such arsenals. These figures are enormous, and if we are able to employ them in development sectors and also in extending development aid to the Third World, then the policy of disarmament will be the main premise and the most important reserve for tackling the problems of famine, poverty, debts, and backwardness in the developing world." [no opening quotation marks as published]

Concluding his statements to AL-QABAS, the Soviet minister said about the diplomatic contacts between Moscow and Tel Aviv: "There are contacts between a group of Foreign Ministry technical officials and their Israeli counterparts to discuss some consular and technical affairs. I find no other description that can be given these contacts."

U.S. TV President Cited on Goodwill Games

LD211640 Moscow TASS in English 1532 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow January 21 TASS—Sports, specifically goodwill games, play an important role in the widening of contacts and strengthening of mutual understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union. There are many differences between us but we are on the right track. Vice president of the U.S. television network TBS Robert Wussler, one of the sponsors of the Goodwill Games in Moscow, now staying in the Soviet Union as a member of the U.S. delegation, said in an interview published in PRAVDA today.

The Soviet delegation at the games in Seattle wil be the biggest ever in the history of sports ties with the USA. It will consist of 530 people. Besides that, 2.5 thousand athletes from more than 50 countries will arrive in Seattle. Though two years remain to go before the games, questions of organizing the competitions, accomodating and feeding guests must be decided now. Places for training sessions should be allocated for sportsmen, Wussler said.

The programme of the competitions will include 22 kinds of sports. Four kinds of sports—baseball, bandy, synchronised swimming and rhythmic gymnastics will be added to 18 events in which competitions were held in Moscow. In addition to existing sports facilities a new basketball arena and a complex for aquatic sports will be built in Seattle.

Wussler said people of Seattle take pride of the fact that for 17 days—from July 20 to August 5, 1990—Seattle will be in the spotlight of world attention. Besides that such competitions bring financial profits. Part of the profits will be used to develop amateur sports in the USA.

It is not only sports matters that were being decided in Moscow, Wussler said. The TBS company recently concluded shooting the film "Portrait of the USSR" that lasts for seven hours. Its premiere over the TBS channels will take place in March. Negotiations on joint shooting of a serial, consisting of six series, are conducted now.

Wussler who paid a business visit to the USSR for the 83rd time noted the hospitality and benevolence of Soviet people. The changes taking place in the Soviet Union now attracts the attention of the whole world, including the United States, said Wussler who covered the visit of Mikhail Gorbachev to the USA and was present at the signing of the historic documents.

Six IOC Countries Not To Participate in Olympics

PM221559 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Jan 88 First Edition p 4

[TASS Correspondent I. Bezrukavnikov report: "After the Application Deadline"]

[Text] The IOC official press release issued after the 17 January deadline for applications for the 1988 Summer Olympics lists 161 of the 167 member countries. Those states which will be sending their Olympic athletes to the largest competition in the history of the modern Olympics. A number of IOC member countries (Albania and the Seychelles) have declined to take part in the games for "traditional" reasons: a lack of top-class sportsmen. The Nicaraguan NOC has announced that it cannot send its athletes because of the difficult econommic situation

there caused by the continuing struggle against the contras. Other states have declined the invitation because the main problem of the 24th Games—the joint holding of the Olympics by the DPRK and South Korea—remains unresolved. It is for that reason that the DPRK, Cuba, and Ethiopia have refused.

Customs Official on Moves Against Drug Smuggling
LD220946 Moscow TASS in English 0923 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow January 14 TASS—By TASS correspondent Viktor Ponomarev:

The first joint operation of the Soviet and Canadian customs services against drug smuggling has been crowned with success as they have stopped a gigantic shipment of hashish worth some 120 million dollars and uncovered a transnational drug racket.

The arrested members of the criminal ring are going on trial in Canada and the witnesses for the prosecution there will include an official from the Soviet Government's customs administration.

The successful conclusion of the joint operation attests to consistent efforts by the Soviet side to fulfil the decisions of an international conference against drug abuse and trafficking, which took place in Vienna last June.

"Apart from adopting a political declaration which has shown the world community's extreme concern about the spread of narcotics and its determination to do away with the evil, the conference has approved a comprehensive plan for organizing and promoting international cooperation and pooling efforts to fight the drug mafia," this correspondent was told by Vitaliy Boyarov, first deputy chief of the Soviet customs administration.

"We are firmly resolved to follow this course and, as you can see, have been matching our words with deeds."

"The joint operation which has smashed one of the criminal narcotics trade rings was mounted soon after the Vienna conference," Boyarov continued.

"After discovering some five tons of contraband drugs of Pakistani make in a shipment of camel wool in transit through Soviet territory to Canada, Soviet customs officials tipped their Canadian colleagues off about it. That was how the 'Canadian operation' began.

"It has graphically demonstrated once again the effectiveness and indubitable advantages of international cooperation in the fight with the 'white death' dealers."

Boyarov added: "We are prepared and eager for extensive cooperation in this field as we see it as our practical contribution to the effort by the entire world community against the drug mania sweeping the planet.

"The Vienna conference and the first practical experience of cooperation make it possible for us to broaden our working contacts with foreign partners substantially."

Weekly 'International Observers Roundtable'
LD241956 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 24 Jan 88

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Igor Pavlovich Charikov, all-union radio foreign political commentator; Tomas Anatoliyevich Kolesnichenko, member of the PRAVDA editorial board and PRAVDA foreign editor; and Anatoliy Nikolayevich Kovrygin, observer of NOVOYE VREMYA]

[Text] [Charikov] Hello, esteemed comrades. Our guests on the program today are Tomas Anatoliyevich Kolesnichenko, who is a member of the PRAVDA editorial board and the paper's foreign editor; and Anatoliy Nikolayevich Kovrygin, observer of the political weekly NOVOYE VREMYA.

The range of subjects we'll be touching on today is fairly wide because the past week has been rich in international events. Not all of them, of course, have been of the same magnitude. Some are on a larger scale than others, but nonetheless, they all find their place in a general picture which reflects a process—a steady process—the aim of which is to make the world safer and more stable, more tranquil. But I'm thinking first and foremost of the visits of our foreign minister, Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze, to two European countries, the Federal Republic of Germany and Spain. So perhaps we might begin with the former. Well, as a Germanist, Anatoliy Nikolayevich, I think you should speak first.

[Kovrygin] Well, of course one can say with a large degree of confidence and definiteness that our foreign minister's visit to the FRG has been a success. At the final press conference, he himself said that the talks had been both fruitful and beneficial. That point of view was shared by the leading FRG politicians, including West German Foreign Minister Genscher. What does one want to say about this visit? Let us take the international aspect first. Both the FRG and the Soviet Union, both our countries, have expressed very clear support for the intermediate- and shorter-range missile agreement reached at the summit meeting.

[Kolesnichenko] While we're on this subject, I'd also like to draw your attention to the fact that the visits by Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze were the first European response, as it were, to the signing of the treaty in Washington. In other words, we've been talking all the time about the Washington meeting and its significance, but in fact, the issue discussed in Washington mainly concerned Europe, after all, because the intermediate- and shorter-range missiles are mostly sited in Europe.

[Kovrygin] Incidentally, most of them are in the FRG.

[Kolesnichenko] Yes, actually they are. So this question now takes on, I'd say, a general, not only European, but also international significance in the sense of how Europe is taking up the baton, so to speak: how Europe is continuing what was begun in Washington. I'd like you to turn your attention to this, and tell us how you assess Shevardnadze's visit from that point of view.

[Kovrygin] This subject of taking up the baton is just what I want to say something about. The point is that our minister and his partner at the talks in Bonn recognized clearly that there must be no pause, no breathing space; that further steps must be taken toward disarmament and toward making detente a reality. In that respect, quite a lot was achieved in Bonn. Above all, we have the final documents, in which it is clearly stated that the accord reached in Washington must be followed by new constructive steps to achieve a reduction both of nuclear and of conventional arms. Bonn showed an interest, above all, in achieving agreement on chemical weapons. Here, Bonn's interests coincide with those of the Soviet Union and of many other countries in Europe and overseas.

[Kolesnichenko] And we—the Soviet Union, West Germany, and other countries—are taking concrete measures to abolish these weapons forever; yet a country on the other side of the Atlantic, and on whose territory it seems unlikely that these weapons will ever be used from here, is now, while paying lip-service to banning chemical weapons, calmly embarking upon a new arms race, in chemical weapons, and developing the so-called binary weapon.

[Charikov] Yet as I understand it, it is in West Germany that the main stockpiles of U.S. chemical weapons are being kept, is it not, Anatoliy Nikolayevich?

[Kovrygin) Just so. Most importantly of all, in the very near future binary weapons, which the Americans are starting to produce, will be deployed there as well.

[Charikov] I think it is for that reason that West German Foreign Minister Genscher raised the question of chemical weapons during his 1-day visit to Washington. He practically began with this; he began by calling on the U.S. Administration to conclude an agreement with the Soviet Union as soon as possible on banning chemical weapons. But in reply he heard yet again those same phrases about the need for verification [kontrol], which, from the point of view of the U.S. side, is still more difficult, procedurally and technically, than the verification of observance of the agreement to eliminate nuclear weapons.

[Kovrygin] I would like to come back, though,for a moment, to Soviet-West German bilateral relations. In particular, I'd like to draw the attention of our listeners to the fact that during the visit, important documents were signed, which give a new content to Soviet-West German relations. I say nothing of the fact that a West German consulate is to be opened in Kiev and a Soviet consulate in Munich. As you know, there are already two consulates, in Leningrad and in Hamburg. All that certainly does promote development of our relations. But a very great deal of attention was given during the visit to commercial and economic matters. Our foreign minister met with leading representatives of the West German business world. The discussions were very frank and businesslike, and West German business circles were very much impressed by the openness and frankness with which Comrade Shevardnadze spoke of the problems of restructuring our economic mechanism, including the mechanism of external economic links. At the same time, attention was drawn to the great negative role played by all sorts of restrictive lists and barriers to bilateral trade and to world trade as a whole. In particular, he pointed out bluntly that abolition of the Cocom lists would give a new boost to the improvement of mutually beneficial relations between our countries.

[Charikov] Anatoliy Nikolayevich, there are two elements I'd like to refer to. The first is that on Monday—tomorrow—the Cocom session opens in Paris. The foreign news agencies write that the session will discuss and review the list of goods banned for export to the Soviet Union and the socialist countries. Well, again, there will be reservations. The U.S. side is insisting that the goods which stay on the list after its revision must be subject to still stricter control and so on. But that's not really the point. The point is that the very existence of these lists is, it seems to me, something of an historical anachronism because the times are past when one could use trade as a lever to bring some sort of influence to bear on political decisions or on various processes taking place in the world. You know, Tomas Anatoliyevich, I was reading your review in PRAVDA this morning, and there was a paragraph in it that I liked, and which, with your permission, I will quote.

[Kolesnichenko] By all means, please do!

[Charikov] It is time to abolish altogether the unjustified barriers and the shameful Cocom lists banning the export of the latest technology to the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. At one time or another, these lists have included all kinds of goods, even down to such items as copper wire. Now, it is sophisticated computers, but the discriminatory nature of that policy is still essentially the same. The losers by it will be not just us but all the countries of Europe. I would even add the U.S. commercial firms. I'll give you an example, and you'll see. We can, after all, survive without Western computers, just as we got along at one time without equipment for our gas pipeline.

[Kolesnichenko] I was just going to say: While you're giving examples, I can't resist interrupting to say that of course the Americans themselves are the first to suffer from these lists. Remember the embargo on wheat, the upshot of which was that we begn buying it from other countries such as Argentina, and, incidentally, began

producing more wheat ourselves, which was very important and a very good thing. When they tried to hinder our gas pipeline, which involved interfering in the affairs of West Germany, they again lost financially. They largely lost our market, and not only because we looked to—[Charikov changes thought] it became more advantageous for us to deal with Germany, which was nearer, and with Japan, which was more reliable—but by the very fact that when one country starts using trade as politics, as a political gesture, as repression, so to speak, it ceases to be a trading partner. The fact is, you are in a situation of competition, after all; if you behave like that, then the other side may turn away and seek out another partner. Now, to give them their due, the Americans are increasingly beginning to wonder whether they are not losing several times more than [as heard]—by sticking to the so-called Cocom lists, as it were.

[Kovrygin] I promised you an interesting example, just for its curiosity value. Do you know how many applications the U.S. Department of Commerce receives every day for licenses to export various goods to the Soviet Union? A thousand applications a day. To cope with this spate of applications, to determine how far they can be granted, whether they fall under the relevant Cocom restrictions or not, the U.S. Department of Commerce is to install a special computer. When a firm wants to know whether it can or cannot sell its product to the Soviet Union, it won't need to make an application: It will be enough just to be linked to the computer, and the computer will provide the answer. That's fine—that's the technical side of the matter.

[Kolesnichenko] But the main thing is to...

[Kovrygin, interrupting] But the main thing, but the main thing...

[Kolesnichenko, interrupting]...Make it secret without it being a secret from their own...

[Kovrygin, interrupting] Quite right, from their own customers. But there it is: A thousand applications a day!

[Kolesnichenko] That's a lot.

[Kovrygin] In the United States. That shows that, as you rightly said, Tomas Anatoliyevich, this could lead, well, if not to a collapse exactly, still in any event to—putting it mildly—financial inconvenience for the businessmen.

[Kolesnichenko] The more so since they have a trade balance deficit in the United States that is well past a joke.

[Kovrygin] Yes, and it seems to me that business circles in West Germany have been far more purposeful and far more realistic in this case.

[Charikov] Because as far as I know, Anatoliy Nikolayevich, the FRG is...

[Kovrygin, interrupting] ...our major trading partner in the West, and has been for the last 15 years.

[Kolesnichenko] But I seem to have read somewhere that lately we've begun to trade less with them.

[Kovrygin] We've begun to trade less; there's been a certain decline in our bilateral trade. We all know that the state of the world market has changed in recent years, that oil prices and the prices of other goods have fallen.

[Kolesnichenko] So this has nothing to do with politics: you consider that it's purely an economic matter?

[Kovrygin] It's determined, above all, by the state of the international market.

[Kolesnichenko] All the same, there's another factor that I would add. You, of course, as an expert on the FRG, will be able to correct me, but it does seem to me that there is an interesting political trend here at the present time. Judge for yourself how successful the visit of Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze to Bonn has been—to a country whose chancellor used to be regarded as the American school's prize pupil. That's what used to be said of him. This was a country whose policy was exactly oriented toward the United States.

[charikov] Took Washington as its model.

[Kolesnichenko] Not only took its cue from Washington, but followed in Washington's wake, I'd say. And what do we see? I'd like to come back to Strauss' visit. I don't know whether you talked about it last time, but it's an event of the utmost interest. If we haven't spoken of it, I'd just like to say two words about it. After all, Bavaria is now, economically...

[Kovrygin, interrupting] It's one of the main lander of the FRG that are actively trading with the Soviet Union.

[Kolesnichenko] Exactly.

[Charikov] Strange as it may seem.

[Kolesnichenko] Yes, it was strange, because the prime minister of that country well, seemed at least—let's be frank—both in our press, and actually they made no secret of it in the Western press either—the very pillar of opposition to Germany's Eastern policy: An opponent of Genscher, an opponent of Brandt, and so on. What do we see now? We see—as the magazine DER STERN wrote, for instance, the other day—that Strauss has decided that the Europeans must stand on their own feet with the Soviet Union. That is a very interesting comment. He said not only economically but politically as well. Thus we have a great many problems with West Germany, as you know, and they have problems of their own. Eduard Amvrosiyevich said very interestingly, let's solve all the matters that we can, apart from those that we'll leave to history; unlike us, history has not sworn

allegiance to any constitutions. That was very well said. So we have actually gained a perspective: economic, as you say, and political, because if leaders like Strauss are beginning to support Genscher, and Genscher says they've actually reached the point of disputing as to whose line this is, toward improving relations with the Soviet Union, this is an indication that the political basis for better relations with the Soviet Union is being broadened in the FRG and in the whole of Europe, both in economics and in politics. This means that general European affairs, such as disarmament, arms reduction in Central Europe and the banning of nuclear tests, which also concerns Europe, and above all, the problem of nuclear disarmament remain. After all, now that the Soviet and U.S. central nuclear systems, as they're called, are being reduced, the question of the British and French missiles again arises, I think.

[Charikov] Well, it will arise in any case, in one way or another, sooner or later. It was temporarily set aside so that we could at least achieve the first success, on the way to the first step.

[Kolesnichenko] I think you are quite right in what you say. At that time, we concentrated our efforts on the one problem: destroying the Soviet and U.S. intermediate-range missiles in Europe.

[Kovrygin] We all needed that breakthrough.

[Kolesnichenko] We solved that problem. But if, for the sake of argument, we now go on to make a further 50% reduction, the United States and ourselves, how...?

[Charikov, interrupting] While they continue their build-up.

[Kolesnichenko] ...Britain and France, then we might well object and ask at what stage London and France will join in disarmament. So far, let us say frankly, in contradistinction to the FRG, I see other tendencies. They were manifested last week both by Paris and London. For example, they're now talking about...

[Kovrygin interrupting] Compensation.

[Kolesnichenko] Compensation, a pause, upgrading armaments. Moreover, they are developing what almost amounts to a general European missile. So what's the use of our destroying the Soviet and U.S. ones, if a general European missile is to be created?

[Kovrygin] Well, incidentally—I'm interrupting you—London started talking about compensation before Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan met in Washington. The U.S. press was writing about the need for compensation before the treaty had even been signed.

[Kolesnichenko] At that time, there was talk that NATO had virtually fallen apart altogether, that U.S. obligations were at an end....

[Charikov, interrupting] Kissinger wrote two enormous articles saying the collapse of NATO was imminent.

[Kolesnichenko] Talking of Kissinger, I must say that in my latest article I called him a political weather vane, and I think I have every reason to. I met him just recently at a dinner at the White House. We got into conversation, and I told him he was very popular in the Soviet Union. He interrupted me at once and said— Did you hear that? I'm popular in the Soviet Union—to the journalists who were standing around. I said, yes, Mr Kissinger, you are popular, but we get a lot of letters asking why is Mr Kissinger, who appears to have been one of the architects of detente, now against every step directed toward improving relations with the Soviet Union, eliminating nuclear forces and so on? He fell silent, then said: You know, I'm going to advocate ratification of the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. A few weeks passed, and I read—I believe it was just yesterday, or the day before—in THE LOS ANGELES TIMES that he is once again criticizing the treaty signed in Washington, and even criticizing the reforms taking place in the Soviet Union. In other words, he is using them to frighten the West. He is saying: Bear in mind, you're talking all the time about Soviet glasnost and restructuring, and supporting it, it seems, but it will be the worse for us if the Soviet Union restructures its economy—and so on. He even tried to frighten Strauss. He went to West Germany and spoke at a conference of a Land Group....

[Charikov, interrupting] In the Bundestag.

[Kolesnichenko] In the Bundestag. His speech was very coolly received. What I'm saying is that this is a man who thinks that everything he is not involved in must be bad. I don't even think these are his actual political views: It's just that he is apparently jealous that the present era is managing without him. Be that as it may, I think there are now, of course, other forces grouping behind him that would like to wreck this process.

[Charikov] Well, as we have started to speak of the forces seeking to undermine this process, it is not enough to mention Kissinger alone here. He has likeminded followers in the shape, particularly, of Zbigniew Brzezinski, and a whole number of...

[Kolesnichenko, interrupting] Former...

[Charikov, interrupting] Yes, former, but, by the way...

[Kovrygin, interrupting] And there are probably such to this day, present day ones.

[Charikov] There are presentday ones. There are presentday ones, but, in general, these are figures without such loud reputations as Brzezinski and Kissinger: figures who are really most odious but who are seeking to counteract the process set in motion by the signing of the treaty in Washington. In particular, I...

[Kolesnichenko, interrupting] You don't have to look far. Take Senator Kemp....

[Charikov, interrupting] Well, that's who I had in mind. I had him in mind when I was saying that he doesn't have a loud reputation....

[Kolesnichenko, interrupting] You know, I think that you are a little mistaken here. He is fairly well-known, and, insofar as we have been in the United States, we need only recall that he is one of the authors of Reaganomics.

[Charikov] Not just that: He is one of the authors of the boycott of the Moscow Olympics. What I mean by reputation was along the lines of something positive....

[Kolesnichenko, interrupting] Ah, then of course...

[Charikov, continuing]...Which the person has done both for his country and for international life, and so on. All his life, Kemp has been spoiling everything. Now, as a runner for the candidacy of his party...

[Kolesnichenko, interrupting] I think he will foul up here, too. [chuckles]

[Charikov] We'll see, we'll see.... In Michigan, for example, in Michigan, as is well-known, he suffered a devastating defeat at these party conferences. But, at the end of the day, Kemp is a pretty odious figure. There was the letter in which he appealed to Shultz, calling upon him to be careful: The Russians had begun to deceive Washington even before setting about the implementation of the INF Treaty. But, apart from Kemp, there are even more earnest opponents of the treaty.

[Kolesnichenko] You understand, what should we—you see, again I call upon you to recall that we spent a long time in the United States, and we have to recall that such people, especially senators, and especially those who are submitting their candidature for the post of President, are people who, in the heat of the Presidential campaign—and it has in fact begun already...

[Charikov, interrupting] Well, it has begun, yes...

[Kolesnichenko, continuing] ...it is fully under way. They are playing their own games, their own self-interested games.

[Charikov] I completely agree with what you have said, and, indeed, it really is the case, but, excuse me: There are certain political ethics. Who gave U.S. political figures the right to make use of international treaties as the small change of their personal political games?

[Kolesnichenko] Quite right, and I am saying to you that no one gave them the right. But that is what they are.

[Charikov) Yes, but as soon as it is election year in the United States...

[Kovrygin, interrupting] They took it themselves.

[Kolesnichenko] Exactly.

[Charikov, continuing] ...it becomes simply impossible to speak with them.

[Kolesnichenko] You know what they say—I often came across this with senators—they themselves say: Pay no attention. This is pre-election rhetoric. Then the election takes place, but what was said and spouted—all that remains...

[Charikov, interrupting] Remains.

[Kolesnichenko] This in some way affects public opinion. This is what I call the provincialism of U.S. political life.

[Kovrygin, interrupting] absolutely correct.

[Kolesnichenko] We should state this.

[Charikov] Well, unfortunately, we cannot fail to take account of all this insofar as this is an objective reality. So what does one do with the United States now? We can't change their political system. We can't change the laws of their pre-election struggle. All this has to be taken into account. It's sad of course that all this really is taking palce at the most [word indistinct]...

[Kolesnichenko, interrupting] Sad indeed, but you know, you have to be an optimist. For example, I am certain—well, perhaps I am sticking my neck out a bit—but my analysis is that this treaty will be ratified.

[Charikov] That stands to reason, but how many lances are going to be broken? Just think now: Tomorrow, Monday, the first hearing on this treaty starts in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. So, just watch and see how many amendments will be submitted....

[Kolesnichenko and Kovrygin, interrupting] That's right....

[Charikov, interrupting] One has to expect...

[Kolesnichenko, interrupting] One has to expect that, precisely in the gush of this provincialism, [changes thought] just wait and hear what Senator Helm says.

[Charikov] But he has already [changes thought] He was speaking here recently. He is already preparing some kind of snub on the sly.

[Kolesnichenko] Yes, and then you will hear what even, say, the Democrats will be saying who it would appear, [changes thought] Well, the reactionaries are the Republicans. You could say of the Democrats that we sometimes consider them to be more progressive. So, for the sake of distancing themselves from the administration, they will speak against it. But all the same, it seems to me that the treaty is so popular...

[Charikov, interrupting] Naturally...

[Kolesnichenko, interrupting] ...that they will be unable not to ratify it.

[Charikov] Without a doubt. The response it met in Europe, in Western Europe, in my opinion forces serious and realistically-minded U.S. politicans to take this factor into account.

[Kovrygin] Yes, in fact, I should like to speak here about the role of the European countries, and not only of the large ones, but of the small and medium-sized ones. In this context, I should like to recall a very recent initiative. It came from Budpaest. There, representatives of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, together with the Finnish Social Democrats and the Italian Socialists, came out in support of a most speedy ratification of the Soviet-U.S. agreement, and they also demanded further active steps in the cause of disarmament. In particular, they demand continuation of the process of reducing nuclear weapons and striving for progress in reducing conventional weapons. As we know, these questions are being very actively discussed in Vienna. The Vienna meeting has been going on now for more than a year, and so far there has been no success in achieving a result at it.

[Kolesnichenko] But, you know, all the same, I feel that the very dynamics of disarmament now permit us to say that 1988 could be Europe's year; and, of course, a very great deal depends on the Vienna meeting. You are right in saying there is no sign of an end to it there yet. But, if this meeting is now filled with more new content, namely, if these disarmament problems are now posed—and posed by this Vienna meeting, the meeting of the participants in the pan-European conference on security—and so, let us pose the question of the security of Europe, of cutting tactical nuclear weapons and eliminating these weapons, their reduction and elimination...[sentence as heard]

[Charikov, interrupting] Which they call battlefield weapons...

[Kolesnichenko, interrupting]...the battlefield. Yes, that is the third zero, as they say. There are already two zeroes.

[Kovrygin] Yes, that's the third zero.

[Kolesnichenko] Yes. Let us talk about a total halt to and ban on nuclear tests. Let us talk about the Jaruzelski plan. By the way, there is the plan of the Palme Commission, as you know. There are a great many...

[Kovrygin, interrupting] A nuclear-free corridor...

[Kolesnichenko, interrupting] Yes, disarmament problems which have to be discussed in Vienna, because there is already an infrastructure for the discussion and resolution of these problems, the Pan-European conference. So, let this be a new basket, and all these Helsinki baskets will find their (?application), as they say [word indistinct]

[Kovrygin, interrupting] [word indistinct] fulfillment...

[Kolesnichenko, interrupting] ...fulfillment in Vienna, and this will then be a new step forward. Europe will already be taking up the relay we have begun and moving the cause of disarmament further.

[Kovrygin] Well, now, I am indeed fully in agreement with that view. Everything we have said here about the Vienna meeting does indeed reflect the present situation, the interest of European countries—and not only of European countries, but also of the United States and Canada, which, as we know, are taking part in the Vienna process, the Vienna meeting—in achieving a concrete and positive results.

[Charikov] Anatoliy Nikolayevich, you were present at one of the meetings, you worked at one of the stages.

[Kovrygin] Yes, I worked in Vienna.

[Charikov] Now, we are talking about the fact that the meeting is dragging on; you have said yourself that it has been dragging on, although it should have ended back in November last year. Where do you see the principal obstacles on the way to movement, to the attainment of some kind of progress?

[Kovrygin] I think that recent international events, and above all the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting and the results achieved there, permit us to hope for a breakthrough in Vienna too, since there used to be a lack of political will, of a political decision on the part of the states and governments participating in the pan-European process, but here this political will now received a very good foundation. There is a foundation; a breakthrough was accomplished in Washington, and now it is for that breakthrough to be reinforced by concrete results in Vienna. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, all prerequisites, so to speak, all the necessary conditions for the achievement of a result have been met here by our side, in my opinion.

[Charikov] Well now, esteemed comrades, the 30 minutes allocated to us have expired. On behalf of the participants in the program, I thank you for your attention and bid you farewell. All the best to you.

Roundtable Held on INF Summit Talks

LD221719 Moscow TASS in English 1645 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow January 22 TASS—The TASS diplomatic correspondent writes:

"The Washington prologue to the process of deep-going and consistent disarmament has shown that an East-West dialogue oriented at big political results is possible in practice. It showed that when statesmen want to do it they can achieve historic results", it was stated by Boris Pyadyshev, member of the Collegium of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Several days ago he began to fulfil his duties of editor-in-chief of the magazine INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

Journalists from various countries who took part in covering the Washington summit assembled for a round table in the magazine's editorial office today to discuss the results of the Washington meeting.

"The Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty is highly rated in the Soviet Union because it serves the highest interests of our society", Boris Pyadyshev said further. "It lies in the channel of the military, to be more precise, the defence priorities of our state. It fully accords with the interests of our perestroyka. In fact by its essence the treaty is the first practical result of perestroyka".

Indeed, it is difficult to question the fact that the treaty has become a historic event. But will the first step be followed by other ones along the road of nuclear-missile disarmament? Here the views of the participants in the round tabled varied. The Bulgarian journalist Atanas Atanasov said that Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan had conducted unprecedentedly frank discussions and that this was evidence of a certain trust established between them which, in turn, was an earnest of further successes along the road to a nuclear-free world.

In his turn the British journalist Martin Walker spoke at length about his own and London's doubts about the prospects of further detente. He said there was the possibility that what people saw was a false dawn, that what appeared to be a new sign of an end to the cold war would remain only a sign.

"Martin, does mankind have the time to wait, say, ten years to determine whether this was a false dawn or not", exclaimed the Soviet television commentator Valentin Zorin. Are there not too many nuclear weapons accumulated in the world, too many economic and ecological problems threatening catastrophe? Is it not time to move more vigorously along the road of detente?" [quotation marks as received]

The Japanese journalist Yokisuke Nikazawa said that the Soviet-U.S. treaty was made possible by the political will displayed by the leaders of the USSR and the United States. The biggest progress has been reached in the field of arms control, this being an important component of the process of disarmament. "I think the whole world is looking with hope at the disarmament process", he said. "The whole world with the exception of the Japanese Government which, alas, is bent on increasing military expenditures. At least this is the way I see it".

Peter Arnett, who works for an American television company, spoke about the difficulties which the ratification of the treaty faces in the United States Congress. Yet he noted: "I have the impression that the INF Treaty is a fait accompli and it will be ratified".

Briefs

IOC Vice-President Dies

Moscow January 21 TASS—Konstantin Andrianov, the oldest member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), has died at the age of 77. His name is inseparably connected with sports history of the past six decades. He was chairman of the National Olympic Committee from 1951 to 1975. From 1962 to 1974 he was member of the Executive Committee and first vice-president of IOC. It is he who became in 1951 the first Soviet representative in IOC. Andrianov took an active part in the work of the USSR National Olympic Committee and IOC till the last days of his life. [Text] [*Moscow TASS in English 0838 GMT 21 Jan 88 LD*]

United States & Canada

U.S. 'Source' of 'Policy of State Terrorism'

LD211639 Moscow TASS in English 1536 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Washington January 21 TASS—Charles Redman, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of State, told the news conference on Wednesday that the United States had decided to list the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a state supporting terrorism. This act, according to the UPI news agency, pursues the goal of intensifying the economic and political isolation of this country. The allegations by the puppet regime in Seoul about the involvement of the DPRK in the crash of the South Korean airliner over Thailand last November are used as a pretext.

Redman cited neither facts nor evidence to prove the South Korean version. The steps made by the USA against the DPRK are obviously dictated by Washington's striving to step up pressure on the Asian state which pursues an independent policy line. It is not by chance that the United States included in the same list Cuba, Syria, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Libya and Iran which refuse to bow to American diktat and pursue policy which meets their national interests. It was only after the event that the USA had admitted that the entire anti-Libyan campaign was a deliberate act of disinformation, made on initiative of the then CIA Director William Casey.

The unceremonious act of the USA vis-a-vis the DPRK represents an attempt to evade responsibility for its deeds because the United States was the main source and expounder of the policy of state terrorism. Washington is pursuing this course in its plans to topple the legitimate governments of sovereign states which it finds disagreeable. It continues to export counterrevolution: the undeclared war against Nicaragua, the continuing military and other aid to insurgents in Afghanistan, Angola, Mozambique and other countries, the extended military presence in the Persian Gulf aimed at fanning up the Iran-Iraq conflict and directly interfering in the internal affairs of the countries of the region.

As for the aircraft, the United States can in no way claim to be accuser of others in terrorist acts. Suffice it to recall the crash of a Cuban airliner in October 1976 which plunged in the Caribbean after an explosion on board. Agents of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency turned out to be involved in the act of sabotage which left 73 people killed. The terrorists arrested by authorities in Barbados admitted to being recruited by the CIA. They were found to possess instructions on how to handle explosive devices of the type planted on board the Cuban airliner.

One of them Luis Posada Carriles later fled from the prison and under the assumed name of Ramon Medina took an active part in arms deliveries to Nicaraguan contras as part of the White House covert operations to sell arms to Iran and divert part of proceeds to finance the acts of armed sabotage, killings and terror against the people of Nicaragua.

The espionage agency raised and sheltered the terrorist, like in the case of fugitives from justice Brazinskas who committed a grave criminal offense on Soviet territory: During hijacking they killed stewardness Nadezhda Kurchenko and wounded several crew members. Despite repeated representations from the Soviet side, the USA continues to harbour the murderers. The letter from the mother of Nadezhda Kurchenko to U.S. President Ronald Reagan asking him to take measures to extradite the criminal was left unanswered: Phyllis Oakley, a spokeswoman for the State Department told journalists last summer that she heard nothing about the letter.

Reagan, FRG's Genscher Discuss INF Treaty

LD221341 Moscow TASS in English 1325 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Washington January 22 (TASS)—President Ronald Reagan met in the White House Thursday with Hans-Dietrich Genscher, deputy federal chancellor and minister of foreign affairs of West Germany staying here for a short visit. It has been reported that during the talks the President spoke out in favour of ratifying the Soviet-American INF Treaty as soon as possible without any unacceptable amendments that could call for additional talks with the Soviet Union.

In his turn, Genscher said that West Germany regarded the INF Treaty as an instrument for the consolidation of security in Europe. In our opinion, it meets the interests of Western security and European partners by the Alliance, he pointed out when answering questions of journalists. We sincerely and wholeheartedly hope that U.S. Congress will take a decision on the ratification of the treaty as soon as possible, he said.

According to Marlin Fitzwater, official spokesman for the White House, during the meeting with Genscher Reagan said that the U.S. hoped to work out an agreement on the reduction by 50 per cent of strategic nuclear arsenals of the USSR and the U.S. by the Soviet-American summit meeting in Moscow. On the whole, we are full of hope, Fitzwater said. In his turn, Genscher expressed hope at a press conference that an agreement on a 50 per cent reduction of strategic offensive armaments could be concluded in a not too distant future. We welcome efforts in this direction, he said.

Genscher dwelt on the results of the visit to Bonn of the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and said that they had discussed in detail Soviet-American talks on strategic offensive armaments. "The exchange of views included other spheres of disarmament, especially the conventional armaments problem. Apart from it, we discussed the present state of the Geneva talks on

chemical weapons. On behalf of the FRG Government I expressed interest in a complete elimination of those weapons", Genscher pointed out.

The West German foreign minister said that Shevardnadze's visit to Bonn had permitted to achieve impressive progress in the improvement of Soviet-West German relations. He expressed hope for an overall improvement of East-West relations.

On the same day President Reagan met in the White House with John Tower, former chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. According to Fitzwater, the President asked the former senator to promote the ratification of the INF Treaty. Tower who enjoys considerable influence in Congress agreed to render him this kind of assistance.

U.S. Senate Hearings on INF Treaty Begin

LD250638 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] [Announcer] The last week of January is marked by important events in international life. Hearings on the issue of ratifying the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles open in the U.S. Senate today. Over to Vladimir Gerasichev, our correspondent in the United States:

[Gerasichev] In the opinion of the numerous observers who are making their forecasts and estimates today, the advocates of the treaty in the Senate have enough votes for its ratification, but there is still a very long way to go before that. Ahead is a serious struggle with those who will do their utmost to slow the progress of mankind on the path to a nonnuclear and safer world, who will seek the adoption of amendments to the treaty that would necessitate its revision and a return of the sides to the negotiations table.

Those politicians do not hide their intention to use the incipient Senate hearings for a critical revision of all aspects of Soviet-U.S. relations.

Further Report

LD251003 Moscow TASS in English 0942 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Washington January 25 TASS—TASS Correspondent Oleg Polyakovskiy reports:

The U.S. 100th Congress opens its second session today. On its agenda are most varied issues ranging from problems of war and peace to the proposal to set up a new department for the affairs of the veterans.

In keeping with tradition, the President's State of the Union Address before the joint session of the two chambers gives an official start to Congress' sessions. This year, however, the Senate, the upper chamber of Congress, gets down to serious work long before the evening meeting with the President. Hearings in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Armed Services Committee on the ratification of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on Eliminating Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles begin since early morning.

Among other major issues is the President's request for aid to the Nicaraguan contras to be submitted to Congress this week. The House of Representatives is planned to vote on it on February 3 and in case the request get its approval it will go to the Senate floor for a vote on February 4. According to the estimates of lawmakers themselves, in the House this issue will be solved with the closest margin and the outcome of the matter will be decided by the sentiments of about 50 wavering congressmen.

For the sake of conditioning them during one-to-one meetings in the White House and telephone calls to Capitol Hill the President does not plan any other matters for this week apart from the already mentioned State of the Union Address and another two speeches which, by the way, will also be devoted to contra aid.

Among the issues, which as practice shows, are very complex for lawmakers are the shaping of the federal budget for fiscal 1989 starting October 1. At the last session, the budget for the current year was endorsed only late in December following many months of heated debate and compromises between congressmen and senators themselves as well as between them and the White House.

There are a total of several thousand issues on the agenda of each session of Congress although it has time to deal with only several tens of them.

Reagan Cited

LD240739 Moscow TASS in English 0704 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Washington January 24 TASS—"On Monday, I will formally submit to the Senate for advice and consent to ratify the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty that General Secretary Gorbachev and I signed in December. It's a good treaty, a solid one with the most extensive verification provisions in history. It will make America and its allies more secure", U.S. President Ronald Reagan said in his Saturday radio address to the nation.

Baker Cited

LD231632 Moscow TASS in English 0001 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Washington January 23 TASS—In a few days' time the U.S. Administration will refer to the Senate the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles signed at the Soviet-American summit in December. White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker announced this on Friday.

Speaking here before members of the National Committee of the Republican Party he expressed the confidence that the Senate will agree to the ratification of that historic document which for the first time envisages the elimination of an entire class of nuclear armaments. The conclusion of that treaty considerably reduces nuclear danger not only for America but also for the whole world, said the White House chief of staff.

Reagan Security Strategy Report Viewed
PM221209 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Jan 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS Correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko report: "President's Report"]

[Text] Washington, 21 Jan—TASS correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko reports: The White House has circulated a routine, second, report by President Reagan to Congress on the "National Security Strategy of the United States."

The aim of this strategy, the document states, is to defend U.S. national interests and promote the consolidation of peace. It admits that nuclear weapons and the intercontinental means of their delivery "have become the main threat to the national survival" of the United States while survival under the conditions of a stable and secure world is the paramount aim of the U.S. strategy of national security.

"Talks with the Soviet Union on arms reduction," the document states, "have henceforth been placed on a firmer basis," which has led to "the first agreement between the two superpowers on a substantial reduction of nuclear arsenals." The report describes the Soviet-U.S. treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles as historic and at the same time states that "further progress has been achieved in the direction of drafting an agreement which could lead to a 50% reduction in the strategic offensive arms of the United States and the Soviet Union."

"The achievement of verifiable agreements on broad, in-depth, and varied reductions of offensive armaments is a top priority for the United States in the field of arms control," the document states. At the same time it confirms the United States' adherence to the "Star Wars" program aimed at the militarization of space and fraught with the threat of disruption of the opportunities for reaching agreements on strategic offensive arms.

The document emphasizes the U.S. desire for "talks with its opponents" aimed at "seeking spheres of mutual interests and easing tension and at making our relations stabler and more predictable." One of the main aims of U.S. strategy, the report continues, consists in "seeking opportunities for improving relations with the Soviet Union on a realistic and reciprocal basis." "Acknowledging the fact that our relations with the Soviet Union are of a competitive nature and are basically relations between adversaries," the report says, "we will nonetheless support dialogue with it in order not to let slip opportunities for more constructive relations."

The report emphasizes that the changes taking place in the Soviet Union and the initiatives it has put forward "cast doubt on old stereotypes" and are exerting enormous influence in the world and strengthening the Soviet Union's international prestige.

At the same time the document repeats the old postulates claiming that "the number one threat" to the national security of the United States and its allies remains the Soviet Union, which is allegedly undertaking "military expansion" and seeking to "rule the Eurasian continent." The report's authors use these claims to justify the expansion which the United States itself is undertaking and to make appeals to congress to promote the further improvement and buildup of U.S. arms.

The United States, the document says, "must maintain the ability to defend its global lines of communications and to deploy its armed forces over large distances for a long time." U.S. policy with regard to the developing countries also rests on this "strong-arm diplomacy." That is obvious from the task which the report sets for the United States and its allies—that of "guaranteeing access to foreign markets and sources of energy and mineral raw materials." The U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf is cited as an example of the implementation of this task.

The report considers the threat to international security posed by existing and potential regional conflicts. Nonetheless its authors frankly proclaim the United States' allegiance to a policy of interference in the affairs of other countries, primarily Nicaragua, Afghanistan, and Angola, on the pretext of "defending freedom and democracy."

Opposition to Reagan's Contras Policy Growing
LD241307 Moscow TASS in English 1203 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Washington January 24 TASS—U.S. President Ronald Reagan said in his regular radio address to the nation Saturday that "the key to peace" in Central America was in continued aid to the contras. Going ahead with the intensive campaign for getting Congress to set aside new funds for the Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries, the President described as "phooey" the argument that their support by the United States undermined the peace process in Central America.

Lawmaker Lee Hamilton, in a response to the President on behalf of the Democratic Party which controls both chambers of the U.S. Congress, recalled that the House of Representatives was to vote on the President's contra aid request on February 3 and the Senate-February 4. "The choice before Congress is clear: A vote for more Contra aid is a vote for more war, more repression," the

congressman said. The authorization of more aid to the contras will kill the peace process. "A vote against contra aid is a vote for a political solution to a seven-year war".

On the recent meeting of the presidents of five Central American countries in Costa Rica, who gave a fresh impetus to the peace process in the region, Lee Hamilton said that in the opinion of the Central American leaders, aid to the contras would kill the peace process.

Opposition to contra aid is mounting on Capitol Hill virtually day after day. By the way, ever more undecided lawmakers join its traditional opponents. Nineteen of them, members of the House of Representatives from the Democratic Party, sent a letter to President Reagan Friday urging him to refrain from submitting a contra military aid request. "We view any move to advance new U.S. aid to the rebels as extremely risky and a threat to a lasting peace in Central America", they wrote.

Even members of President Reagan's Republican Party are sceptical to his "crusade" in support of the rebels named "freedom fighters" by the White House. Robert Dole, a Republican Minority leader in the Senate, asked Reagan to postpone submitting his contra aid request before the results of peace efforts in Central America become clear, AP reports.

Comment on Policy

LD241040 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1751 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow, 23 Jan (TASS)—TASS Commentator Sergey Gorbunov writes:

A little over 1 year ago, at the height of the 'Iran-Contras' scandal, the U.S. weekly NATION wrote: "The post of U.S. President is currently held by a liar. He lies regularly, systematically, deliberately, and always when this suits his policy and objectives. He is not the first liar to get into the White House, but he is perhaps the first to elevate lying to the prefered style of governing the United States." This view can be left totally on the conscience of the journal's editors, but one is involuntarily reminded of the weekly's words when assessing the latest speech on the matter of U.S. assistance to the Contras, which was delivered by the U.S. President in the White House Friday.

It should be noted that the speech by the head of the administration was not conspicuously original. How many times this week has he lashed out with crude attacks against Nicaragua, claiming that that small country of 3 million people has fallen victim to an "undeclared war" and "presents a threat to U.S. security"? He entreated congress to continue financing and arming the Somozist gangs. As is known, next week the White house intends to present an official request for new multimillion dollar appropriations for its mercenaries.

In an attempt to put pressure on the legislators, many of whom are opposed to continuing the aggression against Nicaragua, Ronald Reagan has used the entire arsenal of arguments long-since grown stale: from accusations of horrific Sandinist atrocities to the gigantic figures, plucked from no one knows where, for 'Soviet military aid' to this central American country. In a clear attempt to play on the religious feelings of Americans, the head of the White House invited a man he described as a 'Nicaraguan clergyman' to be present when he made his speech: one who had himself experienced 'torture at the hands of the Sandinist soldiers'.

The President naturally forgot to mention that those same former Somozists on whom he pins his greatest hopes in the 'struggle for freedom and democracy' in Nicaragua took part in the murder of the Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, who paid with his life for his actions in defense of the poor and oppressed, against the reactionary pro-U.S. regime. Likewise consigned to oblivion were the four American nuns brutally murdered by agents of the security service in that same El Salvador, to say nothing of the thousands of women, children, and unarmed peasants who have fallen victim to the counter-revolutionary mercenaries in Nicaragua in the just over 8 years of the United States' dirty war against that country. U.S. Senator Tom Harkin is right when he says that the contras are not freedom fighters but puppets of Washington, murderers, hangmen, and violators.

Reagan also tried to capitalize on the name of Pedro Joachim Chamorro, former editor of the newspaper PRENSA, who, as we know, was murdered by the guards of the U.S. puppet Somoza. Moreover, the U.S. President, who systematically accuses the Sandinist government of 'infringing the freedom of the press', also keeps silent about the fact that in the years when the United States was trying to keep the dictator Somoza in power in Nicaragua, his tanks razed the offices of the opposition PRENSA in revenge for articles exposing the crimes of the tyrant of whom President Franklin Delano Roosevelt made the famous statement: "Yes, I agree that Somoza's a son-of-a-bitch, but he's our son-of-a-bitch."

This juggling with the facts and gross falsification was resorted to with the one sole object of justifying the administration's policy of neoglobalism and of exporting counterrevolution and toppling governments of which it disapproves—a policy of which the 'Iran-contras' operation was part and parcel. Former CIA Director William Casey took with him to the grave the secrets of its real organizers, who completed the work of Lieutenant Colonel North, who destroyed documents which might have thrown light on the initiators of that black affair. But Reagan's present speech confirms the White House's intention to continue the very course that led to the shameful Irangate scandal.

U.S. Intends To Step Up COCOM Activities

LD222349 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1830 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] A State Department spokesman has stated in Washington that the United States intends to step up implementation of the recommendations of COCOM—the Coordinating Council for the Control of Export to the Socialist Countries. The statement was made in connection with an impending conference of the organization members, which comprise the NATO countries as well as Japan. Here is Commentator Vladimir Pasko:

[Pasko] COCOM was set up on the initiative of the United States in 1949 and concentrates on compiling three lists of export goods and technologies. The first two lists concern military goods and goods used in atomic power engineering; there is a complete ban on exporting them to the socialist countries. The third takes in dual-purpose goods and technologies—that is, those which can be used for both military and peaceful purposes. Western firms can export these to the Soviet Union only after receiving permission.

At first, COCOM attracted little attention. During the first few years of its existence export licenses were requested only rarely. In the eighties, however, the situation changed. There was a dramatic growth in trade with the East, and according to the press, COCOM granted permission for technology and equipment exports worth more than $2 billion during that period. The value of the goods for which licenses were refused came to only $85 million, and it was precisely at that time that Washington began talking about the need to improve COCOM's efficiency, inducing its members by all possible means to restrict their trade with the socialist states. The list of goods banned for export was extended to 100,000 items.

This move led to protests in Western Europe, Japan and the United States itself. Authoritative studies were carried out, showing that the restrictions were having a harmful effect on the development of the capitalist countries themselves. Experts at the U.S. National Academy of Sciences stated that the restrictions were costing the country the loss of almost 200,000 jobs and $9 billion annually, and were having a destructive impact on relations with the allies. Nonetheless, that policy remains in force.

To judge by press material, Washington's efforts are now geared to bringing the national legislation of its allies into conformity with the COCOM requirements. Raising the efficiency of COCOM also implies investing it with the possibility of applying sanctions against firms which, in the view of the Pentagon or the U.S. Department of Commerce, have violated the relevant agreements. In exchange for this, the United States agrees to somewhat curtail the list of goods banned for export.

To this day, all these actions are aimed at preventing socialism from building up its scientific and technical potential. On the practical plane, one cannot, of course, call these attempts serious. In effect, they merely provide incentive for the CEMA countries in organizing the production of various goods. As for their impact on the political climate, however, one cannot possibly underestimate them. As we know, restrictions on the development of economic links between countries weaken the foundations of their interest in political cooperation.

U.S. 'In No Hurry' To Comment on Mideast

LD232143 Moscow TASS in English 1651 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Paris January 23 TASS—Judging by reports of the local press, Washington is in no hurry to express its view of a new Soviet proposal on the ways of making the Middle East settlement process more dynamic, which was set forth in a letter sent by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The newspaper LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS called attention to the absence of an official response of Washington to the Soviet proposal and pointed out that the U.S. Department of State wanted to hear and study a report of Perez de Cuellar on this issue before expressing its view of the ideas contained in the proposal.

It is not clear, however, what Washington is waiting for. A report of the U.N. secretary general on the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands sent by him to the Security Council has been made public already and is well known to the Department of State. The report pointed out the need for effective measures aimed at ensuring the safety of and protection for the Palestinian population and said that talks on a comprehensive, just and durable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict acceptable to all the parties concerned was the only reliable way to attaining this goal.

The report said as well that this kind of a political settlement on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338 of the Security Council and with due account for the lawful rights of the Palestinian people, including self-determination, should be achieved with the help of an international conference with the participation of all the parties concerned held under the U.N. aegis.

It is worth recalling in this connection that the letter of the Soviet foreign minister to the U.N. secretary general suggested a similar thing: It said that the Security Council which is the main body of the United Nations organization responsible for the maintenance of universal peace should immediately be drawn into the practical preparation and the setting in motion of the mechanism of the international conference on the Middle East whose task would be to find a reasonable balance of interests of all the parties concerned and to ensure durable peace and security in that region.

It seems to be high time for the U.S. Administration to stop keeping silent on this acute problem and to express its opinion of it.

U.S. Satellite in Danger of Falling From Orbit

LD231707 Moscow TASS in English 2359 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] San Francisco January 22 TASS—There is a danger that a U.S. satellite weighing eleven tons might fall to the ground. A correspondent of LOS ANGELES TIMES was told this by chief of the Projects Division of NASA Research Centre Robert James. He said that research satellite put into near-earth space in 1984 from board the space shuttle "Challenger" has no engines or control system of its own, so cannot be controlled by commands from the ground.

That artificial earth satellite was planned to be removed from orbit a year since its launching by one of the shuttles. But these plans were frustrated by the Challenger's catastrophe and discontinuation of launchings of manned spacecraft by the United States. Unless measures to recover the satellite are taken it will fall to the ground in a year or two and will disintegrate into numerous fragments, according to Robert James.

Goodwill Games Delegation Arrives in Georgia

LD231718 Moscow TASS in English 2345 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Tbilisi January 22 TASS—To establish direct trade and tourist contacts with the Soviet Union is the purpose of the arrival to Tbilisi of a delegation of an organizing committee of the Good Will Games "Seattle 90". The delegation is led by the committee's president Robert Walsh.

Talks began today between representatives of U.S. business circles who are on the delegation and the leadership of a number of ministries and departments of this Transcaucasian republic.

Mr. Walsh has told a TASS correspondent that representatives of the U.S. business community show interest in cooperation with the Soviet Union. There are still many unused opportunities. It applies in particular to the expansion of tourist exchanges, The export of Georgian wines and the organization of joint venture enterprise.

Robert Walsh emphasized that he expects to sign a contract this time on the purchase of Georgian wine and to organize the sale of Georgian handicrafts during the Seattle 90 Games.

Today the delegation was received by Zurab Chkheidze, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the republic. He pointed out the importance of new forms of the Soviet Union's economic cooperation with other countries connected with the restructuring and the importance of the development of Soviet-U.S. relations.

During the conversation it was emphasized that a powerful impetus to cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States was given at a summit meeting in Washington. The successful conclusion of the talks between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan and the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of the Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles open up fresh opportunities for a search of solution of other disarmament issues.

Schoolchildren Participate in Radiobridge

LD251024 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0653 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Washington, 25 Jan (TASS)—Almost 35 million Americans listened to a "Children Talk to Children" radiobridge which was organized last Sunday on the initiative of Radio Moscow and WAVA, a major Washington area radio station. The meeting over the air lasted 2 hours and was relayed by a series of radio stations in Los Angeles, New York, Indianapolis, Minneapolis, and St Louis, as well as Washington.

This was the first radio meeting between U.S. and Soviet youngsters. WAVA selected 5 out of 1,000 U.S. schoolchildren who wanted to take part in it. Those who did not get into the company's Washington studio were able to ask questions on an open telephone line. The youngers talked about the problems they encounter every day at school, on the street, in the family, told one another about their understanding of the modern world and shared their ideas about the situation in the two countries. The Soviet and U.S. youngsters agreed to hold another meeting over the air this spring.

China

Ovchinnikov: Summit 'Has Become Necessity'

PM221741 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Jan 88 First Edition p 5

[Vsevolod Ovchinnikov "Viewpoint": "Life Dictates"]

[Text] An extraordinary step, the like of which has not been witnessed in Soviet-Chinese relations for a long time—this is the leitmotiv of international reactions to M.S. Gorbachev's replies to the journal LIAOWANG. It was a truly significant event. A prestigious sociopolitical weekly with a circulation of almost half a million had asked the CPSU Central Committee general secretary for an interview. For the first time in almost 3 decades the Chinese public was provided with the opportunity to acquaint itself directly with a first-hand, detailed expose of the Soviet leadership's views on world events and bilateral problems. This fact alone appears to be a good sign, a result of positive changes which are taking place in Soviet-Chinese relations.

As for the foreign news media, most of them regard M.S. Gorbachev's replies as evidence of the Soviet Union's readiness for active dialogue with China at all levels,

including the top level. Many commentators link the replies to LIAOWANG with the CPSU Central Committee general secretary's speech in Vladivostok and his interview to the Indonesian newspaper MERDEKA, viewing all this as a reflection of the USSR's foreign policy activeness in Asia and the Pacific. They emphasize that Moscow has not confined its attention to Washington but is stepping up international contacts in all spheres.

Political circles in the West have still to rid themselves of the obsolete notion that it is supposedly possible to improve relations with certain quarters only to the detriment of other quarters. Interpreting the material published in the Chinese weekly from precisely this angle, certain commentators set about spreading skepticism: Beijing, they are arguing, is far too interested in economic relations with the capitalist world to risk provoking misgivings on the part of Washington and its allies at the prospect of a rapprochement with Moscow....

It is sober views, though, that predominate. According to the Japanese newspaper TOKYO SHIMBUN, things are moving toward a Soviet-Chinese summit. Since 1982, the newspaper recalls, USSR-PRC relations have been steadily improving. Soviet-Chinese summit talks, TOKYO SHIMBUN sums up, could take place in the near future.

The similarity of the problems which our countries are tackling provides broad scope for a mutually advantageous exchange of experience. The reforms of the economic mechanism and the political system which are under way in the PRC are of great interest to the USSR, just as the specific practice of our restructuring is, naturally, to the Chinese public. In its efforts to ensure the survival of mankind, the Soviet Union would like to be able to count on the cooperation of the PRC, on whose policy a great deal depends in world affairs.

Political dialogue is already being established between our countries, and a Soviet-Chinese summit might be its logical development. To all appearances, the objective need for it is felt by both sides. Last fall it was mentioned by Deng Xiaoping, who said that, although he was not planning any trips abroad because of his advanced age, he would willingly meet with the CPSU Central Committee general secretary. M.S. Gorbachev was quick to say that a summit meeting was also the wish of the Soviet side and could take place in Moscow, Beijing, or any other suitable place. The advisability of a summit was confirmed in the LIAOWANG interview.

The Chinese side has made settlement of the Cambodian problem a prior condition of a possible summit. But, in the first place, there has at last been movement on this, and both the USSR and the PRC have the opportunity to promote the success of the talks that have begun and assist contacts between the opposing sides. The withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia would, in any case, be completed in 1990, if the Cambodian leadership asks Vietnam to do so. I do not see any sense in linking the Soviet-Chinese summit to that date.

In the second place, talks are held between state leaders to discuss and resolve complex issues of bilateral and international relations. Moscow has far more differences with Washington than with Beijing. But the Soviet-U.S. dialogue is becoming increasingly active at summit level. The same can also be said of Sino-U.S. contacts—to which sore points in bilateral relations, which have been aggravated even more of late, represent no obstacle at all.

Experience shows that it is at summit level that solutions can sometimes be found to problems which have seemed in a state of deadlock. So one would like to express the profound belief that a meeting between the leaders of the USSR and China has become a necessity.

Sino-Soviet Cooperation Group Meets in Beijing

OW241555 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Asian-Pacific Region 1300 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] The permanent working group for mutual relations and cooperation of the state planning commissions of the Soviet Union and China held its first meeting in Beijing. The group is under the Soviet-Chinese Economic, Trade, and Scientific and Technological Cooperation Committee. The two sides discussed questions concerning the economic reforms and economic development in the Soviet Union and China. Both sides hoped to exchange more experience in economic reform.

The meeting pointed out that the two countries have positively developed their economic relations and trade in the recent period. There is a great potential for furthering the relations. The Soviet Union advocates that new approaches be taken to develop bilateral relations.

Deng Meets With Norway's Gro Harlem Brundtland

PM221239 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Jan 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Meeting in Beijing"]

[Text] Beijing, 21 Jan—China seeks to ease tension in the world, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping declared at a meeting here with Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland. She is on an official visit to the PRC. Proceeding from our common assessment of the international situation, Deng Xiaoping pointed out, the forces of peace have exceeded the forces of war in their development, although the danger of war still exists. It is precisely on the basis of this common assessment that we have decided to modernize the country.

The Chinese leader emphasized that his country welcomes the dialogue between the Soviet Union and the United States and wishes them to make new, still more active efforts to further reduce nuclear arms.

Burgeoning PRC-Taiwan Trade, Ties Discussed

PM201339 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Jan 88 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent Yu. Savenkov report: "Business People Building Bridges"]

[Text] Beijing—In the first half of 1987 the volume of trade between mainland China and Taiwan increased by 60% in comparison to the same period in the previous year. Specialists predict that if the trend of Taiwan softening its political and economic policy toward mainland China continues, by the beginning of 1988 the volume of trade could amount to $2 billion.

This was recently discussed in the Beijing BUSINESS WEEKLY. The Chinese Government, XINHUA noted, has always proceeded from a policy of free exchange between the people living on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. The proposal made by central government in 1979 concerning mail and trade links and air and sea communications is well known. Meanwhile the Taiwan authorities have repeatedly said that they have no intention of changing their policy of "the three no's" in relation to mainland China. ("No contacts, no talks, no compromise.")

Recently, under pressure of international public opinion and the negative attitude of many of the island's inhabitants to this policy of restrictions, for the first time since 1949 Taipei agreed to ease its strict bans on Taiwanese (with the exception of state officials) visiting relatives in mainland China. The placard at Beijing's Shoudu Airport "We welcome our Taiwanese compatriots who have come to visit their relatives" has become a permanent feature of Beijing reality.

According to XINHUA, since the easing of the restrictions an average of 265 Taiwanese compatriots visit the mainland every day. According to preliminary figures, some 15,000 people are expected for the spring festival, the traditional Chinese New Year, which is a time when families get together. They are being given preferential treatment at border points, railway stations, airports, and customs. Taiwanese researchers predict that at least 100,000 people living on the island will visit mainland China this year.

"Direct trade between mainland China and Taiwan," the newspaper RENMIN RIBAO wrote, in particular, "is to the advantage of both sides. One could start with nongovernmental commercial and industrial organizations."

At present trade, which began 8 years ago, is mainly carried out through Hong Kong. It is conveniently situated geographically, enjoys the status of a free port, and plays host to business representatives from mainland China and Taiwan.

During these 8 years not only has the volume of trade sharply increased but the range of goods is now very varied. Taiwan exports raw materials, synthetic fabrics, chemical products, machines, and electronic equipment. It imports from mainland China herbs, edible oil, marine products, coal, cotton, and raw material for the textile and chemical industry. But the Chinese press notes that while encouraging exports, the Taiwanese authorities still strongly limit imports. In particular, the import of a considerable quantity of raw materials from the mainland is totally banned, which has resulted in a substantial trade deficit of $2.4 billion. If this problem is not resolved, BUSINESS WEEKLY wrote, it will be a serious impediment to the further expansion of trade.

Some Taiwanese businessmen are investing capital on the mainland in enterprises which manufacture footwear, toys, clothing, and electronic equipment, and they bring technology with them as well as investments. The majority of these enterprises are situated in the littoral provinces of Fujian and Guangdong, which have established favorable terms for these investors. This kind of investment is expected to increase, not least because Taiwanese businessmen are finding it increasingly difficult to penetrate their main export market—the U.S. market—as a result of the United States' growing protectionist foreign trade policy.

PRC Paper Cited on Rational Consumption

PM221104 Moscow TRUD in Russian 20 Jan 88 p 3

[Unattributed report under the rubric "In the Trade Union Newspapers": "Call for Rational Consumption"]

[Text] What should the level of consumption be in China today? Is it possible in general to lay down optimum levels, and what are the criteria? In connection with these complex questions which directly affect the interests of the country's population of a billion, a lively and in-depth discussion of the consumption problem is taking place, developed in the pages of the trade union newspaper GONGREN RIBAO.

There have been positive developments in the people's life, the newspaper writes. But at the same time the phenomenon of "consumer fever" has arisen. The unrestrained desire for consumption has become characteristic of a number of institutions, departments, and enterprises and many individuals.

According to official statistics, even before the end of last year the level of personal consumption of PRC citizens increased by 16.5% compared with 1986, while for organizations and departments this indicator was even more substantial—20.2%.

The problem is that this rapid upsurge in consumption is not backed up by a corresponding rate of economic growth. In the last 3 years the income of inhabitants of cities and urban-type settlements has increased by 16.3%, more than 5% ahead of the rate of growth of

national income. The real wages of workers and employees, taking into account the factor of price rises, have increased by an average of 9.4% a year, while labor productivity has increased by only 6.4%.

The Chinese press illustrates the excessive price that the country is now having to pay for excessive consumption. For instance, more than 4 million color television sets are produced in the PRC. To do this, it was necessary to buy more than 100 production lines from abroad. However, in Shanghai alone—the country's leading industrial center—$50 million a year has to be allocated to import spare parts and components to maintain the normal operation of these lines.

Analyzing the readers' mail, GONGREN RIBAO notes: When it is a question of the need to combat the pursuit of a high level of consumption, people sometimes ask whether this is an encroachment on their consumption, whether it means restrictions on their purchasing power. When the discussion turns to the importance of maintaining a "spirit of firm struggle and an economical attitude to everything," some people ask anxiously: "Are we going back to the old ascetic way of life?"

It must be said, the newspaper goes on, that these questions are groundless. For many years a proper relationship between accumulation and consumption has not existed in China. Added to this is the damage done by the "Cultural Revolution," which led to an extremely low rate of growth of the Chinese people's living standard. Moreover, often in the past those who called for a modest way of life were in effect extolling poverty, which was then counterposed to the bourgeois way of life. Thus the meaning of the slogan "Zeal in work and modesty in life" was distorted.

What kind of consumption can be considered rational today? As production develops, people have far more money. Buying a woolen garment, drinking a couple of glasses of beer, even acquiring one or two costly consumer durables—that kind of consumption is rational and normal and cannot, of course, give rise to accusations of acquisitiveness.

At the same time every consumer must remember that China is a large country with a weak economic base and very limited material resources, forces, and potential. So it is not yet possible for everyone, without exception, to drink beer and have several woolen garments and a full range of modern household appliances.

Calling for rational consumption and a rational structure of consumption does not, in the newspaper's opinion, mean that it is necessary to call for limitations on consumption. It does not mean that the people's living standard should not improve. Calls for a rational way of life do not constitute interference in citizens' personal life, and still less a call for asceticism.

The aim of the reforms being implemented in the country is the development of production forces and the attainment of prosperity for China and an improvement in the people's living standard. It is another matter that today the country is only just embarking on modernization, and every sphere of economic building needs accumulation funds. If the task was to fully satisfy requirements for a few categories of costly consumer goods at the present stage of economic development, it would be necessary to change the production structure, alter priorities, appropriate substantial capital investments to the retooling of enterprises, and therefore spend valuable currency reserves. That is unacceptable for China in the light of its material and financial potential—both today and for a long period of time in future.

People's hopes of a rapid rise in the level of consumption are only natural, GONGREN RIBAO concludes, but that is only possible on the basis of the development of society's production forces.

Northeast Asia

USSR, Japan Hold Talks on Mideast, Afghanistan

LD231252 Moscow TASS in English 1216 GMT 23 Jan 88

["Soviet-Japanese Consultations End"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 23 TASS—Soviet-Japanese consultations on questions of the Middle East situation, the Iran-Iraq war and the Afghanistan situation were held at the Foreign Ministry of the USSR on January 22-23.

Onda, Vorontsov Confer

OW231255 Tokyo KYODO in English 1240 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 23 KYODO—Japan and the Soviet Union Saturday concluded a two-day consultation here to exchange views on Iran-Iraq war, Afghanistan and Middle East peace issue.

In the third Japan-Soviet consultations on the Middle East problem, Japanese officials led by Takashi Onda, head of the Foreign Ministry's Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, conferred with Vice Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov and other Soviet officials.

On the Afghan issue, the Japanese expressed doubt about prospect for Soviet troop pullout from Afghanistan within this year but the Soviet side expressed strong expectation on the matter.

The Soviet side also asked Japan to support a Soviet proposal to hold a foreign ministerial meeting of member countries of the United Nations Security Council to prepare for an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

The Japanese side promised to carefully study the proposal.

Bogachev Examines Hays Interview With YOMIURI
LD230131 Moscow TASS in English 2358 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow January 22 TASS—By TASS military writer Vladimir Bogachev:

The Pentagon has of late been demonstrating feigned concern over so-called threats to Japan's security by the Soviet Union. The Pentagon's aim in this is clearly to get Tokyo to participate more vigoroulsy in the U.S. military programmes in the Pacific.

Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Forces in the Pacific and Indian Oceans Admiral Ronald Hays in an interview to the newspaper YOMIURI expressed the opinion that Japan should answer that "challenge" by, specifically, increasing the expenditures toward the upkeep of U.S. bases on Japanese territory and by taking a number of actions of military nature recommended by the Pentagon. In short, despite the overall positive changes in the international relations, the admiral continues seeing the ways to ensure Japan's security in power methods only, rejecting political ways of strengthening the stability in the Pacific.

The enumeration of military measures which in the opinion of Ronald Hays Japan should take first of all indicates the admiral's profound concern over the prospect of the implementation of the Soviet plan for the normalisation of the military-political situation in the Asia-Pacific region, and shows that the admiral is striving to make irreversible the process of Japan's involvement in Washington's military ventures in the Far East.

As is known, the Soviet Union proposed 18 months ago to limit competition in the area of anti-submarine weapons in the Far East and to keep, specifically, from anti-submarine activity in certain areas of the Pacific. Meanwhile Hays, quite the contrary, insists on the deployment by Japan of a centre for anti-submarine operations in the Pacific.

The Soviet Union made the initiative for the reduction of the activity of navies in the Pacific. Meanwhile the commander-in-chief of the U.S. Navy in the Pacific and Indian Ocean is tempting Tokyo with the prospects of purchasing ships with Aegis anti-missile system from the United States.

While the Soviet Union proposed measures for ensuring the safety of sea lanes in the Pacific, Hays demanded that Japan build up tension on these very sea communications and welcomed plans for the setting up of over-the-horizon radar on Japanese territory.

As the concession to the attitudes of the Japanese public, the American naval commander even seemed to welcome Soviet-American agreement on the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles on a global scale, not only in Europe, but also in the Pacific area. But all other things he said in his interview, his allegations about Soviet "military menace" show beyond doubt that he fears the spread to the Far East of possible solution of security problems through talks.

Japan's Liberal Democratic Party Program Viewed
PM221317 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Jan 88 First Edition p 4

[Own correspondent I. Latyshev dispatch: "Following the Former Course"]

[Text] Tokyo, 21 Jan—The 49th congress of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party was held in Tokyo today. Like all the conservatives' other congresses, it was of a strictly formal nature and had completed its work by midday.

The party's present chairman—Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who has just returned to the country from a trip to the United States and Canada—delivered a speech at the congress. Touching on the party's foreign policy course, Takeshita pointed out that it is founded on Japan's cooperation with the United States in resolving global problems of international relations. The speaker informed the congress delegates of his intention to make trips to the PRC, South Korea, and West European countries this year.

As for questions of domestic policy, promises to direct efforts toward stabilizing the unbridled growth in land prices, as well as toward reforming the tax system with a view to introducing "fair taxation" designed to stimulate the country's economic growth, occupied the central place in the party chairman's speech.

The congress participants approved the "Party's Course of Action for 1988" without a discussion. Its international section notes "the positive historic significance" of the Soviet-U.S. accord on the elimination of intermediate-range missiles.

As for Japanese-Soviet relations, the course of action advances as a condition for improving them an illegal demand for "the simultaneous return to Japan of four northern islands" (meaning the four southern islands of the Kuril Archipelago—I.L.). In the same connection it is planned to conduct a number of demonstrative measures in Japan hostile to the Soviet Union (including two so-called "northern territories days") aimed at inciting the Japanese population to come out in favor of a revision of the Soviet-Japanese borders which took shape as a result of World War II.

On the whole, the documents adopted by the congress have not made any substantial changes to the political course pursued by the Liberal Democratic Party's leadership over a number of recent years.

'Increasing Military Potential'

LD211239 Moscow TASS in English 1210 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo January 21 TASS—By TASS correspondent Vladimir Kuchko:

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party of Japan has held a regular convention here today and adopted a program of action for 1988.

The document declares the intention of the incumbent conservative government "actively to facilitate international cooperation in the interest of general peace and prosperity, which form the basis for the nation's existence and development".

It follows from the program, however, that the ruling party sees a more active role for the nation in international affairs first of all in closer relations with the United States, based on the military-political alliance of the two countries, and in a continued policy of increasing the military potential of Japan.

The convention said in a resolution that the party would seek "national accord" with a view to revising the present constitution whose Article 9 prohibits Japan to have armed forces.

The Liberal Democrats promise that Japan will facilitate "stability and progress in the Asian-Pacific region and broaden relations with neighboring countries".

Nonetheless, when touching on relations with the Soviet Union, the conservatives once again linked their development with the satisfaction of territorial claims made by Tokyo to the USSR.

U.S. Stance 'Main Obstacle' to Korea Unification

PM201021 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 14 Jan 88 First Edition p 3

[TASS Political Observer M. Yakovlev article for SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA: "The Path Toward Korean Unification Is Difficult"]

[Text] The world public has recently been following the situation on the Korean peninsula intently. Its attention was drawn by the active position of the DPRK leadership, which, in its endeavor to solve the Korean question by peaceful democratic means, has put forward a number of new initiatives.

Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and president of the DPRK, urged in his new year speech that the state of military confrontation be eliminated, the danger of war removed, a nonaggression declaration adopted between North and South, the large-scale "Team Spirit" military exercises brought to an end, talks on arms reductions held, reciprocal propaganda attacks abandoned, and the 1988 Olympic Games held jointly.

The implementation of these specific, constructive proposals conforms with the innermost aspirations of the entire Korean people and the cause of peace and security in the Asian-Pacific region. The DPRK is not only declaring its peace initiatives but is also backing them up with practical actions. The unilateral demobilization of 100,000 servicemen of the Korean People's Army undertaken by the DPRK late last year was striking proof of this.

But what position do the Seoul regime and its patron—the United States—occupy? On the pretext of ensuring that the 1988 Olympics are held successfully Seoul and Washington have reached an agreement to step up bilateral military cooperation—in particular, creating an aerial warning system, supplying Seoul with large consignments of munitions, permanently stationing U.S. Navy ships off the shores of South Korea, and expanding the scale of the "Team Spirit" maneuvers. At the same time there is no shortage of U.S. statements of their desire for peace throughout the world and for the settlement of regional conflicts. There is no need for proof that the U.S. position is the main obstacle to Korean unification.

The DPRK's new peace initiative illustrates its consistent efforts to finally put an end to the country's division. The Soviet Union has never hidden its sympathetic attitude toward the tragedy of the Korean people and has always actively supported the DPRK course toward the peaceful unification of Korea and will continue to show effective solidarity with the just cause of the Korean people.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

SRV's Van Linh on 'Earliest Withdrawal' From PRK

LD221051 Moscow TASS in English 1041 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo January 22 TASS—In an interview with a group of Japanese journalists in Ho Chi Minh, which was published today, Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party, said that Vietnam was striving for the earliest withdrawal of its volunteers from the People's Republic of Kampuchea. He pointed out that Vietnam was ready to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea before 1990 if it is requested by the Kampuchean leaders.

The contingent of Vietnamese volunteers was brought to Kampuchea at the request of its legitimate government to rebuff outside interference in Kampuchea's domestic affairs. Over the following years Vietnam has repeatedly carried out partial withdrawals of its volunteers from the Kampuchean territory.

Indonesia's Kusumaatmaja on Upcoming Visit

LD241524 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0530 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Reports on the visit to the USSR by Kusumaatmaja, Indonesian minister of foreign affairs, scheduled to take place early in February, have been met with great interest in Indonesia. Vladimir Beloshapko, our correspondent in Jakarta, reports:

[Beloshapko] Such interest is not surprising. Soviet-Indonesian contacts on various levels, including the state level, have been noticeably developing recently. Last year Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze visited Indonesia. A delegation from the USSR Supreme Soviet has also visited the republic, while Indonesian Minister of Information Harmoko has visited our country. The revolutionary changes in all facets of Soviet life and the bold, constructive, and flexible foreign activity of the USSR aimed at stopping the arms race are attracting the increased attention of the Indonesian public. The authority of the Soviet Union is growing stronger both in Indonesia and in Southeast Asia in general. At a news conference Kusumaatmaja was asked many questions touching on his forthcoming visit to our country and on Soviet policy in general. Answering them, the head of the Indonesian Foreign Ministry said, in particular:

This visit will reciprocate the visit to Indonesia by Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze. We will discuss in Moscow the state of bilateral relations, including issues of trade and economic cooperation, and also regional and global international problems.

The Indonesian minister called the Soviet-U.S. agreement on eliminating intermediate- and shorter-range missiles a good start. We hope it will be ratified by the U.S. Congress, and then further steps will follow such as signing an accord on the 50% reduction of strategic offensive weapons, efficient talks on conventional arms and chemical weapons. Indonesia joins its voice to those who are struggling for curbing the arms race. The responsibility for preserving peace lies not only on the great powers but also on all other states, stressed Indonesian Foreign Minister Kusumaatmaja in conclusion.

Briefs

SRV Hydrometeorological Pact

A specialized computer center, built in Hanoi with Soviet assistance, has become an important contribution to improving Vietnam's hydrometeorological service. A protocol has been signed on cooperation between the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control and the SRV main Directorate for Hydrometeorology. Under this document, the Soviet side will give Vietnam technical aid and assistance in the training of cadres. There are provisions for the further development of cooperation between the two countries in studying the tropical climate. [Text] [*Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0725 GMT 23 Jan 88 LD*]

Near East & South Asia

Ligachev Meets With Lebanese Party Officials

LD231337 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1202 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow, 23 Jan (TASS)—A meeting was held at the CPSU Central Committee on Friday between Ye.K. Ligachev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, A.F. Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and K.N. Brutents, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, and W. Junblatt, chairman of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] of Lebanon, and G. Hawi, general secretary of the Lebanese CP [LCP] Central Committee.

The Soviet representatives described the main directions of the activity of the CPSU in the context of the restructuring of all spheres of the life of Soviet society, which has been mounted at the party's initiative and under its leadership, and in the context of the deepening of the process of democratization, radical economic reform and renewal in education and upbringing, which are designed to reveal more fully the production potential and humanist potential of socialism.

The Lebanese friends were informed of the Soviet Union's foreign policy, which, with the support of all peaceable and realistically-minded forces has led to considerable changes in the international climate. The signing of the USSR-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles is of historic significance. The first breakthrough on the road to nuclear disarmament, this document marks a triumph of reason and is an achievement for all mankind. The Soviet Union intends persistently to try to bring about new agreements with the aim of carrying out the program for a nuclear-free and secure world put forward by M.S. Gorbachev on 15 January 1986. It will be striving for a settlement of the Near East and other regional conflicts by firmly championing the right of peoples to the choice of their own path of development without interference from outside.

W. Junblatt and G. Hawi stressed the importance of the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit, describing it as a major success for the peaceable forces of the world, and declared their solidarity with the USSR's foreign policy initiatives, which, they said, are evoking a profound interest and response among the Arab public. An understanding is growing in the Arab countries that the improvement that has begun in international relations creates more favorable conditions for resolving regional conflicts, including a chronic and complex conflict such as the one in the Near East. The representatives of the

PSP and LCP placed a high value on the efforts of the Soviet Union, which consistently pursues a policy of peaceful settlement of conflict situations.

As the participants in the meeting underlined, a characteristic feature of the development of the situation over the Near East conflict is now the most widespread recognition of the fact that an international conference is the sole realistic way toward a just settlement. Since the Palestinian issue is now the key one, the PLO should of course take an equal part in the work of a conference. The Soviet and Lebanese representatives pointed out the importance of the fact that at the Amman summit conference, the Arab states unanimously advocated convening a conference. It was stated that the joining of ranks by the Arab states on this basis will serve as an effective means of implementing the idea of a conference.

Those taking part in the conversation expressed solidarity with the Palestinian population of the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip, who are courageously defending their legitimate rights and protesting against the occupation. They declared that the events in the occupied territories are a convincing demonstration of the amorality and lack of political future of the current policy of the Israeli ruling circles, a policy that contradicts the genuine interests of the people of Israel.

The sides advocated the soonest possible cessation of the Iranian-Iraqi war, based on implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598, and advocated the withdrawal of foreign fleets from the Persian Gulf and the creation of naval forces under the UN flag.

The leaders of the PSP and LCP reported on Lebanon's increasingly acute socioeconomic problems, the activities of their parties, and the vigorous activities of the Lebanese patriotic resistance to the Israeli occupation of the southern regions. The Soviet side gave a high estimation of the courage of the Lebanese patriots.

The representatives of the CPSU, PSP and LCP expressed their conviction that an end to imperialist and Israeli interference, renunciation of armed confrontation, a constructive political dialogue leading to nationwide accord, and the preservation of Lebanon as an independent, territorially-integral Arab state are necessary for any genuine settlement of the long-lasting Lebanese crisis. The PSP and LCP affirmed their readiness for such dialogue with all the national forces of the country. Attention was drawn to Syria's important role in normalizing the situation in Lebanon, and the common nature of the anti-imperialist interests of the Syrian and Lebanese peoples.

Those taking part in the meeting advocated further development of cooperation between the CPSU and LCP, and the CPSU and the PSP, in the interests of strengthening Lebanese-Soviet friendship, and they exchanged opinions regarding specific steps in this direction.

The conversation took place in a warm and comradely atmosphere.

Hawi Comments on Talks

LD231916 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Statement by George Hawi, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party to an unidentified Moscow radio correspondent; date and place not specified—recorded]

[Text] For the first time, a delegation from the Lebanese Socialist and Communist Parties, including Comrade Walid Jumblatt and myself, accompanied by members of the leadership of the two parties, had talks with the comrades in the CPSU Central Committee about the very important current developments on the international, Arab, and Lebanese levels. We had the honor of meeting Comrade Ligachev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade Dobrynin, secretary of the Central Committee; and other comrades from the Foreign Ministry, at a friendly session that lasted for more than 2 hours. This session dealt with various Lebanese, Arab, and international developments. We can say that we felt the importance of this meeting after it achieved more than we had expected, because the new Soviet leadership is characterized by its clear dealing with issues, despite the fact that these are the most intricate international ones.

The complicated issues discussed related to the situation in Lebanon and the Middle East. The viewpoints were similar. On our side, Comrade Walid Jumblatt and I advanced united views concerning our endeavors to get the country out of its difficult and continuous 14-year crisis. We proposed the principles and the bases that in our opinion constitute the criteria for a patriotic solution for the Lebanese crisis. We proposed these principles and stressed the role played by the Soviet Union in supporting the struggle of the Lebanese nationalists for the democratic solution of the Lebanese crisis. Syria assumes a fundamental role in this solution, owing to its policy toward the Lebanese scene and due to its pan-Arab position and role, which consists of its desire to help Lebanon out of its crisis and its concern about Lebanon's unity and Arab identity.

Israel's Shamir Ignoring World Community's 'Will'

LD242013 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1457 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow, 24 Jan (TASS)—TASS Commentator Andrey Malyarov writes:

Israeli Prime Minister Shamir has once again demonstrated unwillingness to embark on real steps to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Near East conflict. This time he has categorically rejected the Soviet proposal directed at giving new impetus to the process of a Near East settlement. The only "argument" that the Israeli premier

deigned to cite was the sacred phrase: "This is not to Israel's advantage." Earlier on the same pretext, Tel Aviv wrecked or turned down numerous proposals from Arab countries drawn into the conflict, resolutions from the UN Security Council, and finally the idea of holding a peace conference on the Near East with all interested parties taking part that has been approved of by the whole world community.

It is noteworthy that Tel Aviv's first reaction to the new proposal by the Soviet Union followed immediately on the publication of the text of Soviet Foerign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's letter to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, that is, when there had obviously been too little time for serious reflection on it. The statement by the Israeli Cabinet spokesman is most indicative. He said: "It is too early, of course, to come to final conclusions, but it is already clear that the latest Soviet initiative is unconstructive." Nothing other than that.

How many times already has Tel Aviv indiscriminately declared to be "unconstructive" what all Arab countries involved in the conflict have recognized to be interesting, and what the Jordanian Government has described as an "effective and serious step which could speed up the process of peaceful settlement in the Near East"? Even the Western press, which it is hard to suspect has any sympathy with the Soviet Union, pointed out that the Soviet proposal merits attention by the very fact that it has been announced at a time when the process of a Near East settlement is going through difficult times.

However, from the point of view of Shamir and the entire Israeli ruling clique as a whole, any settlement option is "unconstructive" and "disadvantageous to Israel," which touches on the problem of the Palestinians, a people which have for the last 40 years been deprived of a homeland for the sole reason that this is "advantageous to Israel." According to the same criminal logic, let blood flow on the West Bank of the Jordan River and in the Gaza Strip; let tens of thousands of wholly innocent people languish in prisons; let a conflict which brings sorrow and suffering to million of people in the Near East continue. Let it be, as long as it is "advantageous to Israel." At the same time, Shamir has appropriated the right to ignore not only the will of the Arab peoples and the world community but also the entirely legitimate desire of the people of his own country to live in peace. Not for nothing has there been of late in Israel a growing wave of demonstrations against the policy of terror and repression mounted by the authorities in the occupied territories. It is high time Tel Aviv realized that trying to undo the Middle East knot without solving the Palestinian problem is not only immoral but simply impossible.

Expert Criticizes U.S. Tear Gas Supply to Israel

LD250842 Moscow TASS in English 0829 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow January 25 TASS—A Soviet Communist Party Central Committee expert in military matters today described U.S. supplies of tear gas to Israel, used to suppress an uprising in occupied Arab territories, as being "in contradiction to the common sense and humane considerations that are the motive force behind Geneva talks on a convention to ban chemical weapons".

Speaking in an interview with a TASS diplomatic correspondent, expert Geliy Batenin said:

"The Soviet Union is in principle for the destruction of all toxins—both supertoxic (lethal) ones and toxic plice gases (irritants and incapacitants).

"But the American side is reluctant to include the toxins used by police on the list of the chemical warfare agents to be destroyed under the future convention.

"There is no doubt that from the standpoint of such notions as humanity the matter at issue should be the destruction of all kinds of chemical weaponry in principle."

The U.S. weekly NEWSWEEK several days ago reported supplies to U.S. tear gas to Israel. U.S.-made tear gas canisters were found, for example, recently at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, which is among the main Moslem shrines.

The magazine said the canisters had borne warnings against the gas being applied indoors, but that did not prevent Israeli police from using it against believers right in the mosque.

Polyakov Received by Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi

LD241154 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1109 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Jan (TASS)—Vladimir Polyakov, member of the Collegium of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs and head of the Near East and North Africa Directorate, has been received by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Revolution.

Al-Qadhdhafi highly appraised the USSR-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles. He stressed the importance of attaining a 50% reduction in strategic offensive weapons. He expressed support for the policy aimed at attaining national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

The head of the Libyan Revolution noted that the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories confirms the need to step up international efforts for a solution of the Palestinian problem on the basis of enforcement of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Al-Qadhdhafi spoke in favor of the further development of friendly Soviet-Libyan relations. He spoke highly of the process of restructuring that is taking place in the Soviet Union and pointed out that this process is of great significance to many countries in the world.

Delivers Gorbachev Message

LD240732 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0710 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli 24 Jan (JANA)—Yesterday evening, the brother leader of the revolution received Vladimir Polyakov, member of the Soviet Foreign Ministry Collegium and envoy of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Polyakov conveyed to the brother leader of the revolution a message from Gorbachev concerning international issues, at the forefront of which are the Arab people's uprising in occupied Palestine, the Afghan issue, Gorbachev's nuclear disarmament initiatives, the internal developments in the Soviet Union concerning the reconstruction carried out by the Soviet leadership in the republics of the Soviet Union, and the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Funeral of Pashtun's Ghaffur Khan Held

LD222214 Moscow TASS in English 2118 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Jalalabad January 22 TASS—TASS Correspondent Gherman Baykov reports:

The funeral meeting and funeral of prominent fighter against British colonialism, recognized leader of Pashtuns Khan Abdul Ghaffur Khan was held here today. He led the Red Shirters movement in the past.

Though Khan Abdul Ghaffur Khan was born near Peshawar he willed to be buried in Jalalabad. More than 100 thousand Pashtuns gathered in the centre of the Province Nangarhar to bid him the last farewells. The Afghan authorities practically opened the border to all wishing to take part in the funeral of Khan Abdul Ghaffur Khan. On the outskirts of Jalalabad the funeral procession was met by Afghanistan's President Najibullah, Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, other leaders of the Republic, an Indian delegation led by Vice President Shankar Dayal Sharma.

Speaking at the funeral meeting Najibullah said that Abdul Ghaffur Khan had been a dedicated fighter for the happy future of Pashtuns. Even his death served the cause of their unity and cohesion, which today's meeting indicated, Najibullah said.

Two bombs were exploded in the column of buses and cars during the funeral. Six persons were killed, tens wounded.

Najibullah's Oration Cited

LD231409 Moscow TASS in English 1345 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul January 23 TASS—TASS correspondent Gherman Baykov reports:

A mourning meeting and a funeral of Abdul Ghaffur Khan, the recognized Pashtun leader, the noted fighter against British colonialism, were held in Jalalabad. Abdul Ghaffur Khan was born near Peshawar (Pakistan) but he wanted to be buried in that Afghan city. Over 100,000 Pashtuns gathered in the centre of the Nangarhar province to bid him the last farewell. Khan Abdul Wali Khan, chairman of the People's National Party of Pakistan, Abdul Ghaffur Khan's son, came for the funeral from Pakistan. The mourning ceremony was attended by President of the Republic of Afghanistan, Najibullah, chairman of the Council of Ministers Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, other leaders of the Republic, an Indian delegation led by Vice-President Shankar Dayal Sharma, a number of other foreign delegations.

Speaking at the meeting President of the Republic of Afghanistan Najibullah has said that the noble cause Abdul Ghaffur Khan had devoted his life to left a good memory in the hearts of millions of people. Abdul Ghaffur Khan was an ardent fighter for a fair future of the Pashtuns, his dream was for his countrymen to forget the word "war", for peace and tranquility to prevail on his land.

The Afghan leader reminded those present at the meeting about friendship that linked Abdul Ghaffur Khan with Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, his conversations on Indian soil with the first ruler of Afghanistan Amanullah Khan. Abdul Ghaffur Khan always invariably highly appraised and supported the USSR's policy in the international scene, the speaker said.

Touching upon the Afghan-Pakistani negotiations in Geneva, Najibullah expressed the hope that the next stage of these negotiations would be the final one, to make it possible to start withdrawing the limited contingent of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Afghan counter-revolutionaries committed a bloody crime during the mourning meeting in Jalalabad. Two strong explosions took place at the parking of cars which came from Pakistan. Six people were killed and over 70 wounded in that barbarous act.

TV Report on Funeral

LD232053 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 23 Jan 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[M. Leshchinskiy and B. Romanenko video report]

[Text] [Leshchinskiy] Abdul Ghaffur Khan was born near the present Pakistani town of Peshawar. His long life was spent there, but it was his wish to be buried in Jalalabad. He thus remained faithful in his last will to the idea of the unity of the Pashtuns, who consider Afghanistan to be their common home.

We have often been here, at the check-point on the Afghan-Pakistan border. We have always seen these gates closed and surrounded by barbed wire. There were hundreds of refugees here, trying to return to Afghanistan from Pakistan, but not being let in. But today we see an unusual spectacle: The border has been open since dawn. Hundreds of vehicles and tens of thousands of people are crossing the frontier on their way to Jalalabad. More than 150,000 Pashtuns accompanied the funeral procession from Pakistan to Jalalabad. These people were in the grip of two emotions: grief and the proud sensation of fraternal unity. Red flags, red clothing, the convoy of trucks swathed in red material: Thus they expressed their respect for the fighter against the British colonizers who founded, at the beginning of the century, the Red Shirt movement of national liberation. Ghaffur Khan spent almost one-half of his long life languishing, first in British, and then in Pakistani jails. He was a friend and comrade in the struggle of Mahatma Gandhi and of Jawaharlal Nehru. In 1905, during the third congress of the Bolshevik Party, he met Lenin.

Speaking at the funeral service, Afghanistan President Najibullah, noted that in our time also, Abdul Ghaffur Khan struggled against imperialist interference in Afghanistan's affairs and the arbitrary rule of the Pakistani military, for the unity and freedom of the Pashtuns; he actively supported the idea of national reconciliation.

At that very moment, the town was shaken by two powerful explosions. Powerful bombs were exploded at a place where almost 2,500 vehicles from Pakistan had been parked. More than 100 motor vehicles were damaged or destroyed, and 70 people were hurt. Six of them, including two children, were killed. This is the work of Gulbuddin [Nikmatyar, head of a faction of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan] an outraged eye-witnesses of the tragedy told us; he and the other leaders of the Afghan counterrevolution would not let us attend the Ghaffar Khan's funeral. They promised revenge. Now they have once again desecrated our feelings and sacred traditions. But these extremists' attempts to intimidate the people that have given the world such fighters as Abdul Ghaffur Khan are fruitless.

Afghan Army To Withdraw From Some Khowst Areas

LD241927 Moscow TASS in English 1844 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul January 24 TASS—In the near future units of the Afghan Army will be withdrawn from the areas of habitation of the Pashtun tribe of Jadran, says a statement by the Government of the Afghan Republic circulated here today. At the same time military garrisons will be temporarily preserved on the Sataw-Kandaw Pass and in some other points to ensure security of the traffic along the Gardeyz-Khowst road. A withdrawal of troops will be made at the request of chiefs and elders of the Jadran tribe so that members of the tribe who had earlier left their permanent places of residence under the pressure of extremists, would return there.

The statement contains a list of events which brought about the need for carrying out the military operation in the area of settlement of the Jadran tribe. The road between Gardeyz and Khowst had been sealed off by extremist groups over nine years. This made impossible normal deliveries to the Khowst population and to the Jadran tribe. The talks with extremists controlling the road failed, despite persistent efforts of the government, member of the Loya Jerga and the wish of Jadrans. The extremely difficult situation in Khowst which was aggravated by actions of the Pakistani authorities aimed at terminating traditional trade of the Khowst population with the zone of settlement of free tribes in Pakistan, confronted people's power with the need for starting military operations. They were successfully completed, and now auto columns with cargoes for Khowst residents roll on along the liberated road.

The Afghan Government expressed confidence that after returning to the traditional places of habitation the Jadran tribe would not permit extremists any more to blast bridges, destroy the road and to threaten traffic safety on the whole. Armed groups coming out for non-stop motor traffic along the Gardeyz-Khowst road can return to the area to be left by troops, along with population. The statement contains a warning to all extremist gangs. It points out that in case they undertake attempts to return the road under their control and seal it off for a free passage, another blow will be delivered on them.

The Afghan Government called on the tribes of Jadran, Mangal, Jaji, Ahmadzai, Chamkani, Tani, Tutaheil [as received] and others, populating Khowst District, the Paktia and Paktika Provinces, to take part in protecting the road after a withdrawal of army units. The road which was built with state funds and which is in public use, should be always open for free traffic, points out the statement.

Pakistani 'Provocation' Against Indians Noted

LD240854 Moscow TASS in English 0826 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] New Delhi January 24 TASS—The Pakistani coastal guards captured a few days ago 18 Indian fishing vessels, with 144 fishermen aboard. An obvious provocation was staged against the Indian fishermen.

A Pakistani escort ship intruded into the Indian territorial waters in the area of the State of Gujarat, approached one of the fishing ships, took it in tow and led it towards Pakistani territorial waters. The rest 17 ships rushed to help it. But all of them found themselves in the Pakistani side's trap.

East Europe

CSSR Spokesman Supports USSR Mideast Initiative

LD222339 Moscow TASS in English 1949 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Prague January 22 TASS—Czechoslovakia fully supports the new Soviet initiative aimed at the speediest political settlement of the Middle East crisis, the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry Spokesman Dusan Rovenski stated here today.

Czechoslovakia joins the call for the speediest commencement of consultations on this question within the framework of the United Nations Security Council and of a search for effective practical steps. The convocation in the nearest future of an international conference on the Middle East would be the only real way of achieving a just, comprehensive settlement of the situation in that region, he said.

We are convinced that the Soviet initiative will be supported by the entire international community, the Czechoslovak Foriegn Ministry spokesman stressed. He expressed hope that by joint efforts it will be possible to overcome the negative stand taken by Israel which is blocking the process of finding a peaceful solution to the crisis in the Middle East.

The mass uprising of the Palestinian population in Israeli-occupied territories, now in its second month, is an expression of firm political will to put an end to the 20-year-long Israeli occupation and to uphold their lawful rights. Israel's stubborn refusal to start solving the Palestinian question by political means, within the framework of an international conference on the Middle East, as it is demanded by the absolute majority of countries, whips up tension in the region and has a negative impact on the development of international relations, the Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed.

Medvedev Meets With CPCZ's Bejda, Cmolik

PM221557 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Jan 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Ties Strengthening"]

[Text] V. Bejda, CPCZ Central Committee Agitation and Propaganda Department chief, and O. Cmolik, CPCZ Central Committee Mass Media Department chief, visited Moscow 18-21 January. Questions of broadening and deepening CPSU-CPCZ ideological cooperation were discussed during talks held at the [CPSU Central Committee] Propaganda, Culture, and Science and Educational Institutions Departments, a CPSU Central Committee department [v Otdele Tsk KPSS], and the CPSU Central Committee Academy of Social Sciences.

The Czechoslovak comrades met with the party aktiv of Moscow City's Sverdlovskiy Rayon, visited the USSR Council of Ministers Council for Religious Affairs, and familiarized themselves with the USSR Exhibition of National Economic Achievements.

V.A. Medvedev, CPSU Central Committee secretary, received the CPCZ Central Committee department chiefs.

Korotich on 'Main Evil' of Prague Spring

AU132130 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1700 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Report by Otto Hoermann on interview with Vitaliy Korotich, new chief editor of OGONEK, in Vienna; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Hitherto, taboos have been numerous in the USSR. One taboo is the evaluation of the Prague Spring of 1968. So far, "counterrevolution" has been the propaganda reflex, and until now, OGONEK has not made its own evaluation in this respect.

However, in a personal conversation OGONEK Chief Editor Vitaliy Korotich expresses his own ideas, which are not without originality. Korotich considers the main evil of the Prague Spring of 1968 to be that the political leadership of that time had lost its power and its political control. In those days the process of democratization was no longer directed by the political leadership as the strongest power. Gorbachev, however, is today the real leader and director of democratization in the USSR, the chief editor of OGONEK says. In 1968 the leadership in the CSSR was more conservative than the base; in the USSR today, the base is often more conservative than the leadership. Things are the other way round.

Chief Editor Korotich of OGONEK sees Gorbachev as a man who has a firm hold on things. The most interesting thing is that Korotich is able to speak of the Prague Spring without once having to resort to a denouncement using the word "counterrevolution."

Zhivkov, Loginov Discuss Relations Development

LD200309 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2030 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Sofia, 19 Jan (TASS)—T. Zhivkov, BCP Central Committee general secretary and Bulgarian State Council chairman, received today V.P. Loginov, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs, who is here in connection with the consultations between the ministers of foreign affairs of the two countries.

An exchange of views took place in the course of the meetings on further development of relations between the USSR and the People's Republic of Bulgaria and on certain international issues.

Also participating in the meeting were: P. Mladenov, BCP Central Committee Politburo member and Bulgarian minister of foreign affairs, and L.I. Grekov, USSR ambassador to Bulgaria.

Bulgaria's Zhivkov Receives Maslyukov

LD152046 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1547 GMT 15 Jan 87

[Text] Sofia, 15 Jan (TASS)—Todor Zhivkov, BCP Central Committee general secretary and Bulgarian State Council chairman, received today here Yuriy Maslyukov, USSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman.

During the conversation, which passed in a heartfelt and friendly atmosphere, questions related to the condition of and prospects for cooperation in a number of priority sectors of machine-building and electronics were discussed. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the dynamic development of links between ministries and economic organizations of the two countries and the constantly increasing tempo of joint production activity.

The participants in the meeting also stressed the fact that all the prerequisites needed for bringing mutual cooperation onto a qualitatively new level are in evidence.

Concludes Visit

PM191345 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Jan 88 Morning Edition p3

[TASS report: "Documents Signed"]

[Text] Sofia, 17 Jan—The visit to Bulgaria by Yu.D. Maslyukov, USSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman, concluded with the signing of documents on expanding ties between the Soviet Union and Bulgaria in various spheres of the national economy. During the visit he was received by Todor Zhivkov, BCP Central Committee general secretary and Bulgarian State Council chairman, and Georgi Atanasov, BCP Central Committee Politburo member and Bulgarian Council of Ministers chairman.

The documents signed determine the prospects for cooperation between the two countries through the end of the current 5-year period and in the next one. They note that electronics and machine building are to be developed at a preferential rate and that the output and exchange of consumer goods will increase. In the machine building sphere particular attention is to be devoted to the manufacture of machinery and production lines for the automobile, food, and textile industries. Joint activity in biotechnology and the chemical industry will continue on a broad basis. In particular, Soviet-Bulgarian associations are to be established for the purpose of drawing up and implementing technical projects. As a result of further development in industrial cooperation, cooperation in consumer goods production will reach a new level.

The documents were signed on the Bulgarian side by Stoyan Ovcharov, Bulgarian minister of planning and the economy.

Further Reportage

For reportage on the visit of Yuriy Maslyukov, USSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman, see the Bulgaria section of the 19 January EASTERN EUROPE Daily Report.

Mironenko on Role of Youth in Restructuring

AU221507 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 19 Jan 88 p 7

[Report on interview with Viktor Mironenko, first secretary of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League of the USSR, by Bozidar Andrejic: "It Is too Early for a Hurrah"]

[Text] At the invitation of the Yugoslav Socialist Youth Federation, Viktor Mironenko, All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League of the USSR [Komsomol] first secretary, visited our country last week. Just before his final talks with representatives of the Yugoslav youth organization, he kindly accepted Borba's request to answer, without prior preparation, questions on the role of the youth in the process of restructuring [Russian word "perestroyka" used]. Considering that he became head of the Komsomol organization 1 and 1/2 years ago, at the height of the changes which "restructuring" had put into motion, the first question concerned his own view of the changes over the last 2 to 3 years, which have coincided with the beginning of his term of office. The 35-year old Mironenko became the first secretary of the USSR Komsomol after having been the Ukrainian Komsomol first secretary.

"Changes in our society over the last 2 to 3 years, all of which would be impossible to mention, are visible at every turn. They are particularly felt in the political sphere. A new and, I would say, more fair atmosphere has arisen. In spite of this things have not become simpler, but, on the contrary, they have not become more complex, as almost nothing remains of the earlier uniformity—just look at mass communication media: There is a huge diversity of attitudes and views on all issues in society today and on its future development in all spheres."

[Andrejic] It seems as if up until the 27th CPSU Congress a huge section of society lived a double life between changes and the impossibility of putting them into practice?

[Mironenko] Only the subjective side of the problem could be seen this way. For instance, there were even earlier people in the party leadership who thought in a new way and were bearers of the new. Objective conditions were, however, necessary for these ideas to be realized. These conditions are numerous, but I think in

the string of intertwined factors before the 27th congress it was crucial that it became clear that economic development had come to a halt, to a level of stagnation. There was the most obvious dichotomy between words and actions, as people could see what was happening and, therefore, the situation was reached where they saw that they could not fully show their creative potential. An example of this is the many artistic works which for decades could not find their way to listeners and viewers.

[Andrejic] Your speech on the work of the Komsomol, like Gorbachev's speech at last year's 20th Komsomol Congress, made a great impression, primarily because of your criticism of bureaucracy and the previous style of work. How do you now, after several months, look on those words and subsequent deeds?

[Mironenko] The 20th Komsomol Congress was an important turning point in the life of the youth. Above all, it suited the spirit of the times in which it was held. Politically, it showed that the youth supports restructuring—although not all youth, about 70%—and that they are becoming actively involved in these processes, by beginning at this stage to work out solutions to theoretical and economic matters through discussion. The organization as a whole moved closer to the party—theoretically, economically, and politically—so that the processes which have already begun could continue at quicker rate. In addition, at this conference there was an attempt, for the first time in many years, at an objective and critical analysis of the development of the youth organization, Komsomol, in the last few decades.

The congress, however, was also significant for us because of its structure, as it allowed for free discussion without much formality and over-organization. There were fewer rallying and boastful speeches, slogans, and applause, and more thought and disputes. This means that there were people who had different viewpoints, which in fact best characterizes the atmosphere which prevailed at the congress, as well as among the youth.

But there are two "buts." This is not a question of modesty, but I think that the main event of the congress was not the report on the Komsomol's work. As its author I am not insulting myself if I say that the main event was Comrade Gorbachev's speech. It is worth reading this speech very carefully. The most important aspect of it can be seen if it is compared with what has been written about the youth in the last few years. It can be seen that a new attitude toward the youth has been established, it's role in society, its organization, and the methods of the party leadership in it. This viewpoint is in principle new and different.

The other "but" is in the following—it is too early to shout hurrah, as the congress was quite contradictory. However, it could not have been any different. It was held at a time when the old and the new were intertwined; much of the new was already entering into our lives, but much of the other was also being retained. Many young people wanted changes, but they thought in old stereotypes.

Habits developed over decades—and I do not mean only negative ones—cannot be changed in one day, even at a congress. Therefore, it was of significance because changes were begun at it. We could not demand more than that, as it had fulfilled its role. Now we should put into practice what we decided at the congress, but that is quite complex. More complex than we thought.

[Andrejic] Apart from its principle importance for the future work of the youth organization, did this congress have any "figurative meaning" in that, through its criticism of the youth organization and bureaucracy, society and the party were in fact also criticized?

[Mironenko] In our country that has been the case for a long time, as there were areas which criticism was not allowed to touch. Moreover, it was not usual even at Komsomol congresses to speak in critical terms. One could not speak, for example, about the party leadership of the Komsomol and relations between the Komsomol and the party, and it was forbidden to talk about Komsomol's role in the political system.

This time there were no such limitations. More importantly, in the formal sense, there had never been any such limitations. On the contrary, both in the Constitution and the party Statute, as well as in ours, freedom of criticism had been declared and even expressly demanded. However, the atmosphere in society was not favorable and there was no criticism. I think you will not believe me, but there was none at all. That is a very complex matter. It was as if the cat had caught our tongues.

[Andrejic] Can it simply be said that the Komsomol at the moment has more understanding for informal and alternative methods of activity and organization?

[Mironenko] The basic thing is that in society there is now a readiness to admit the existence of various phenomena and creative initiatives from the population and also from the youth themselves. So that every week one or two new associations or social organizations are formed, within either national or international frameworks.

There are very widespread viewpoints by which the participation of the youth in our society is simply seen as a process with two routes; through the youth organization i.e. Komsomol and through informal gatherings. Nowadays, the range of human interests, and even those of a young person is very wide and these interests must also be satisfied in different forms. I do not think we must systematize and plan for all these forms as they

move from a political organization like the Komsomol, through various associations, societies, and peer groups. The Komsomol cannot be excluded from all that because it is a part of it.

West Europe

FRG, Belgium Nuclear Material Transfer 'Illegal'

OW232326 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Asia-Pacific Region 1300 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Because of the illegal transfer of nuclear materials and technology from Belgium and the FRG to Pakistan, which is eager to have nuclear weapons, a tumult broke out a few days ago.

According to newspapers, a Belgian nuclear products company and a transnational FRG nuclear products company secretly sold enriched uranium to Pakistan. Some political activists think that only if their governments failed to exercise strict control could these two companies have done so. According to Belgian newspapers, the Belgian Foreign Ministry issued a permit for the export of the nuclear product. For this reason, the Foreign Ministry should bear the same responsibility as the Belgian nuclear products company. This is indeed the evidence of the crime.

The supply of nuclear fuel to Pakistan by Belgium and West Germany violates the international treaty on nuclear non-proliferation. Will fines be imposed on the companies that did business with Pakistan? Will they be banned or restricted from doing business again? Will [word indistinct] be punished? It is very possible that all efforts will be made to quietly put an end to the tumult . Pakistan previously made repeated attempts to buy components of nuclear weapons. The attempts failed, but those involved in the deals suffered only slight setbacks. For instance, in the summer of 1984, Nazir Vaid, a Pakistani who attempted to smuggle [words indistinct—probably referring to krytons] of atomic bombs out of the United States, was arrested in Houston. Later, his case was closed without being officially settled. Vaid was soon returned to Pakistan after the U.S. Congress howled a while to express its displeasure with Islamabad. In July 1987, Parvez, a Canadian citizen born in Pakistan, was arrested in Philadelphia. He attempted bribery in order to smuggle out of the United States 25 tons of special steel for building nuclear fuel plants. His case also ended without being officially settled. It did not hurt U.S.-Canadian relations. Pakistan's attempt to secretly acquire from the United States the technology and information for making atomic bombs did not affect Pakistani-U.S. relations, either. It is even worse that this not only violates the principles of the international pact on nuclear non-proliferation but also violates the laws of the United States.

It is known to all that the laws of the United States forbid the United States to provide aid to any nation that develops nuclear weapons. Why does the United States adopt a liberal attitude toward Islamabad by repeatedly trying to evade the provisions of the world's treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons? People still remember that when Japan's Toshiba Company sold several machine tools to the Soviet Union for the modernization of Soviet submarines, Washington dealt Toshiba a head-on blow. Toshiba was accused of and punished for committing the crime of violating Cocom restrictions and evading its responsibilities. Actually, the Toshiba Company has been squeezed out of the socialist countries' market. The Soviet Union, China, and other countries that signed contracts with Toshiba have suffered losses. Yet when a nuclear products company in Belgium and another transnational nuclear products company in the FRG are involved in the case of selling nuclear fuel to Pakistan, Washington acts as if nothing has happened. Could it be possible that Washington disbelieves that Pakistan can produce nuclear weapons? Not really. In answering a question raised by a reporter of the British newspaper THE OBSERVER, A.Q. Khan, Islamabad's nuclear weapons expert, said: Actually Pakistan already has nuclear bombs. The United States realizes this. It looks like the U.S. rightists are turning a blind eye to Pakistan's live nuclear bombs for their own strategic interests. Washington's action is aimed at continuously utilizing Pakistan as a base for the Afghan counterrevolutionaries and as a means to apply pressure to India, which seeks to adopt an independent diplomatic policy toward the United States. Right now, the general public in various countries in the Asia-Pacific region, where antinuclear sentiments are rising each passing day, are disturbed by the U.S.-Pakistani military agreement. Their feelings are understandable. At a time when mankind may enter a new nuclear-free era after the signing of the Soviet-U.S. agreement on intermediate-range nuclear forces, the general public in the Asia-Pacific region has regarded the action taken by the United States and Pakistan as a challenge to the general public, who advocates the cause of peace. They believe that those who try to satisfy Islamabad's nuclear ambitions today have set a new obstacle on the road leading to a nuclear free world.

Diversion to Pakistan Viewed

LD231142 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1830 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] According to reports by foreign press agencies, a Pakistani Government official has called groundless reports about the secret acquisition by his country from the FRG or Belgium of materials necessary for producing nuclear weapons. Here is our commentary, with Aleksandr Malikov at the microphone.

[Malikov] It would of course be naive to expect Islamabad to directly reveal its own nuclear ambitions. But regardless of how persistently the Pakistani capital denies plans to create nuclear weapons, there is a lot of evidence of this.

Quite recently, the members of the European Parliament demanded the cessation of exchanges of nuclear specialists between Belgium and Pakistan. This demand was made after reports by members, who stated that over a period of many years, Pakistan had been receiving

extensive secret documents from the nuclear power research center in the Belgian town of Mol. These documents allowed Islamabad to make progress toward creating nuclear weapons.

The fact of the secret export of these secret documents from Belgium fully accords with reports on the theft from there of material for making a bomb. This is all the more so since it is well known that over the past 15 years Pakistan (?has been trying to acquire all the main components for its production from Western Europe and the United States).

Thus, Pakistani nuclear ambitions give more than enough cause for alarm. But the anxious glances of the world's public are now turned not just toward Pakistan but also toward the United States. The point is that a week ago, U.S. President Ronald Reagan decided to lift the restriction, introduced earlier, on military and economic assistance to Islamabad, worth $4.02 billion over the next 6 years. As a matter of fact, as the INDIAN EXPRESS noted, he bypassed the ban on mass military assistance to Pakistan. In other words, the United States has rejected using its effective lever, with which it could arrest Pakistan's nuclear ambitions. Indeed, they have only spurred them even higher. They have been spurred for the sake of their own, and mercenary, interests, which the Reagan administration links with Pakistan's position on the Afghan question—that is, (?to follow) the specific U.S. conceptions on this topic.

It is clear that mankind, which at long last has glimpsed the prospect of nuclear-free future, can not at all be satisfied with a similar mercenary interpretation of the principles of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. One cannot come to terms with, let us say, the prospect that the Pakistani nuclear program, which is gaining dangerous speed with secret U.S. indulgence, will lead to the appearance in Pakistan at the end of the next decade of at least 15 explosive devices with capacities comparable to the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Further on Shevardnadze Visit to Spain

Received by King

LD211550 Moscow TASS in English 1529 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Madrid January 21 TASS—Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR foreign minister, was received today by Spain's head of state King Juan Carlos the First.

Eduard Shevardnadze conveyed to Juan Carlos the first greetings and good wishes of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Andrey Gromyko, expressed gratitude for attention accorded to Soviet representatives in Madrid.

The visit of Juan Carlos the First to the Soviet Union in May 1984 which became an important event in the history of Soviet-Spanish relations and gave them the necessary impetus is remembered well in Moscow.

Spain's head of state wished General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev success in the important and interesting undertakings embarked upon in the Soviet Union and conveyed the best of wishes to President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Andrey Gromyko.

During the ensuing conversation Juan Carlos the first welcomed nascent changes for the better in the international situation and noted in this connection special importance of the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles. The king of Spain is of the opinion that Europe, acting above all in the framework of the Helsinki process, should play an important role in the consolidation of peace and cooperation among states. He said that Spain is conducting a peaceful foreign policy course and that its line in international affairs remains to be responsible and constructive.

Eduard Shevarnadze set out the Soviet leadership's appraisals of the present-day situation in the world, prospects for its development and emphasized the Soviet Union's resolve to press for a breakthrough in world affairs, to carry the matters to the assertion of the principles of a nuclar weapon free, non-violent and demilitarized world. The Soviet Union hopes for close interaction with Spain with which it has durable friendly relations.

More Talks With Prime Minister

LD211801 Moscow TASS in English 1741 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Madrid January 21 TASS—Talks between Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR foreign minister, and Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, Spain's minister of foreign affairs, were continued here today.

The sides concluded the exchange of opinions on international problems and concentrated the attention on the state of and prospects for bilateral Soviet-Spanish relations. It was noted with satisfaction that political contacts between the two countries had developed markedly in the past years. A wish was expressed for the further widening of the topics of political consultations and holding them on a more regular basis.

The ministers assessed the state of cultural ties in a positive way, declared for a broader use of such forms of cultural cooperation as the exchaneg of festivals of arts of the two countries, art exhibitions, holding of guest performances of collectives and individual performers. They emphasized the importance of the development of

contacts in the mass media, in stepping up a dialogue between the public of the two countries, trade unions, womens and youth organizations, sister cities.

The state of affairs in the commercial and economic area was discussed in detail. The level of relations achieved in this area is not in keeping with the economic potentials of the two countries. The structure of bilateral trade is behind the requirements of the times. There is a need to take a fresh and broader look at Soviet-Spanish trade and give up stereotypes of the past. This should be promoted also by the newly concluded agreement on economic and industrial cooperation.

Eduard Shevardnadze emphasized in this connection that the USSR has the experience of such cooperation with a whole number of West European countries. Life shows that given political will and real economic interest, it is possible to cooperate successfully despite differences in the socio-political systems and economic structures.

The ministers expressed satisfaction over the doubling of the volume of trade turn over between the USSR and Spain in 1987 and emphasized the intention of the sides to create Soviet-Spanish joint ventures, to develop industrial cooperation.

Eduard Shevardnadze confirmed an invitation for Francisco Fernandez Ordonez to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union.

The talks proceeded in an open, businesslike and friendly atmosphere, characteristic of Soviet-Spanish relations.

Concluding the talks, the ministers signed a long-term programme of the development of economic and industrial cooperation between the USSR and Spain and a programme of cultural and scientific cooperation for 1988-1989.

Meets With Carvajal

LD221109 Moscow TASS in English 1054 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Madrid January 22 (TASS)—Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, today met with the President of the Senate of Spain's Cortes Generales, Jose Federico de Carvajal.

The topic of Europe and reduction in the level of military confrontation in the continent prevailed during the friendly conversation.

It was noted that Europe, the cradle of developed civilization and the source of detente, could and should play a key part in strengthening positive trends that had emerged in the world following the Soviet-American agreements reached in Washington in December last year and other positive changes in world politics.

Shevardnadze stressed the important role of legislative bodies and parliaments in various countries and public forces in shaping and consolidating the movement towards peace and universal security.

Satisfaction was expressed with the successful development of Soviet-Spanish parliamentary ties that became lately an important integral part of the political dialogue between the USSR and Spain.

The sides came out in favour of their further development with a view to better reciprocal familiarization and rapprochement between the peoples in the two countries, strengthening of the climate of confience and cooperation between the USSR and Spain and in Europe on the whole.

TV Chronicles Meetings

LD212039 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 21 Jan 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze is continuing his official visit to Spain:

[Unidentified correspondent] The intensive nature of the meetings and their high level; the atmosphere of mutual respect and cordiality; the mutual striving to develop relations between our countries; the search for ways of reinforcing security on the continent and throughout the world—these are, perhaps, the main components of Comrade Shevardnadze's visit to Spain. This was confirmed once again by the meeting with Felix Pons, president of the Congress of Deputies. Noting the regular nature which contacts at parliamentary level between our countries have now assumed, Felix Pons stressed, in particular:

[Begin Pons recording in Spanish with superimposed Russian translation] Ten years after the restoration of diplomatic relations, we can say that the contacts and links established between Spain and the Soviet Union are not merely normal but good ones. Moreover, they are developing in a favorable climate for their deepening in all respects: politics, economics and trade. In turn, this type of relationship serves to reinforce a climate of trust overall between East and West. This makes it easier to strive for progress in disarmament and, finally, in stabilizing the world. [video shows Pons seated at table talking to journalists] [end recording]

[Correspondent] Many television viewers may remember the Oval Hall of the Congress of Deputies from the pictures of its seizure by rebels in February 1981. [video shows Shevardnadze in Oval Hall, meeting a group of schoolchildren] Comrade Shevardnadze's trip to this hall coincided with a school excursion, and so yet another unplanned meeting took place, a lively and spontaneous one:

[Begin Shevardnadze recording] I invite you to visit the Soviet Union. [end recording]

[Correspondent] The possibility of such meetings taking place is a symbol of the new atmosphere in Spain. The times of political instability are a thing of the past. Much of the credit for this goes to the Spanish Socialists, who are now in their 6th year in power, as well as to King Juan Carlos, the head of state. Juan Carlos today received Comrade Shevardnadze and the officials accompanying him. It is commonly held that the king's visit to the Soviet Union in May 1984—the first visit to our country by a Spanish head of state—marked the beginning of a new stage in relations between Spain and the Soviet Union. King Juan Carlos appraised the conclusion of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on Eliminating Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles as an event of historic significance opening up the path to real nuclear disarmament. The reception passed off in a friendly atmosphere.

Holds News Conference

PM251431 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Jan 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "In a Friendly Atmosphere"]

[Excerpts] Madrid, 21 Jan—E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, is continuing his official visit to Spain. [passage omitted]

A joint press conference was held at which E.A. Shevardnadze and F. Fernandez Ordonez summed up the Soviet-Spanish talks.

F. Fernandez Ordonez made a high assessment of E.A. Shevardnadze's visit to Spain, which, in his opinion, will serve the cause of developing political dialogue, better interaction in international affairs, and broader cooperation in all spheres.

The following statement by E.A. Shevardnadze was disseminated at the press conference:

Our visit to Spain was inspired by the idea of an all-European home, in whose construction, it is our conviction, all European states must participate, regardless of their sociopolitical orientation, membership of alliances, or size of territory and population.

Our visit to your country was predetermined by the Soviet Union's profound respect for the people and Government of Spain and for their role and potential in creating an atmosphere of all-European and world cooperation and security.

The choice of this itinerary was prompted by the trend toward a more profound Soviet-Spanish dialogue, which was given a strong boost by the contacts between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez in May 1986.

The visit of His Majesty the King of Spain to the Soviet Union in 1984 and his meetings and talks with the Soviet leadership were a significant landmark on the historic path of our peoples' mutual spiritual attraction.

Our coming to Madrid this time afforded us with an opportunity to continue the straight, direct dialogue with the Spanish leadership.

This opportunity was realized in full during the visit.

A personal message from M.S. Gorbachev was passed to Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. Substantive talks with the Spanish head of government confirmed our opinion of the promising nature of Soviet-Spanish cooperation in the international arena in the interests of peace and security, as well as in the sphere of bilateral relations.

We are profoundly grateful to His Majesty King Juan Carlos I for the attention shown us and for his extremely interesting opinions on the state of world affairs.

During the meeting with F. Pons, president of the Congress of Deputies, we exchanged opinions on the role of the public in our countries and of the people's elected representatives—parliament deputies—in further deepening the disarmament process and making it irreversible.

We were pleased to resume the contacts established at international forums with Mr F. Fernandez Ordonez, Spain's foreign minister. We spent 2 days in direct business-like contact, most of which was taken up with talks of a traditionally friendly, informal, and open nature. They covered the entire range of topical problems.

Of course, chief attention was focused on the problems which, above all, determine the evolution of the international situation. These are the ending of the arms race, disarmament, European security, and regional conflicts. It can be pointed out with satisfaction that, for all the differences of philosophy, the discussions revealed a great propinquity [sopryazhennost] of fundamental approaches and important coincidences in positions on a whole number of key international problems.

This relates, above all, to mutual optimism with regard to the emergence of new trends in world politics, based on a fresh and realistic interpretation of the modern condition and potential of our time.

Both sides believe there is an urgent need in the present situation to ensure consistent progress in the disarmament process. We also discussed from similar positions the need to overcome difficulties that still exist in the sphere of further nuclear disarmament, reduction of conventional arms and armed forces in Europe, and conclusion of work on a convention banning chemical weapons.

The ministers agreed to make additional efforts to help create an atmosphere of moral and political intolerance around chemical weapons and to seek their total prohibition and elimination everywhere.

Mutual understanding was reached on the need to enhance the role and extent of participation of all European states in strengthening security, developing confidence, and extending cooperation within the framework of the Helsinki process.

A discussion on settling regional conflicts was conducted without prejudice, informally, and in an atmosphere making it possible to reveal hidden important details and nuances.

Concentrating on bilateral relations, we noted that a solid legal treaty basis has been created for them in recent years. Two more new documents have been signed today: a long-term program for the development of economic and industrial cooperation and a program of cultural and scientific cooperation for 1988-1989. Taking into account our national potentials and also the rich traditions of the dialogue between our peoples' cultures, it is possible to say that these acts will introduce into Soviet-Spanish relations a new dynamism more in keeping with the times.

Our political dialogue is more and more noticeably becoming a weighty factor of European life. During the talks, we agreed to continue the exchange of opinions with Spain on all problems of interest to both sides. The invitation conveyed earlier to Spanish Foreign Minister F. Fernandez Ordonez to visit the USSR was confirmed on the Soviet Government's behalf.

We also had other meetings which widely extended the framework of the visit. I am talking of contacts with the people of Madrid: young people, representatives of the intelligentsia, business people. The visit to the Prado Museum made an indelible impression. In all its manifestations, Spain is consonant with the image that Soviet people have formed.

The ministers answered journalists' questions.

Latin America & Caribbean

Kamentsev-Led Delegation Visits Cuba

Tours Cienfuegos Projects

FL190350 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0313 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Vladimir M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, arrived today in Cienfuegos. He will visit centers of national importance currently under construction. The high-level Soviet official and the delegation accompanying him will tour the nuclear power plant and the oil refinery being built in Cienfuegos with the cooperation of the USSR. Kamentsev, who is also chairman of the intergovernmental commission for economic cooperation with Cuba, arrived in our country at the invitation of the Council of State. During his stay in Cuba, the high-ranking Soviet official will visit centers related to economy, science, and technology, among others.

Visits Nickel Industry Areas

FL191544 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Vladimir M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and president of the Cuban-Soviet Joint Inter-Governmental Commission yesterday made an in-depth tour through areas of the investment program for the industrial and social development of the nickel industry.

He visited Quemado del Negro where a second nickel plant with an annual capacity of 30,000 tons is under construction. It is being built with Soviet cooperation and other CEMA-member countries.

The delegation also toured the Punta Gorda nickel plant, as well as the industrial installations of the Comandante Pedro Soto Alba and the Gustavo Machin mechanical combine. They also visited the Coloradas social and housing development area, specifically the area where housing is being constructed for CEMA technicians who will participate in the development of the Camariocas.

Meets With F. Castro

PM221601 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Jan 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Reception in Havana"]

[Text] Havana, 21 Jan—Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Republic Councils of State and Ministers, has received V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers State Foreign Economic Commission, who is here on an official visit.

The present state of and prospects for Soviet-Cuban cooperation and basic aspects of the development of economic relations between the two countries were discussed during talks held in a friendly, fraternal atmosphere.

Education Protocol Signed With Cuba

LD200334 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0245 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Havana, 19 Jan (TASS)—The Cuban Ministry of Education and the USSR State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education signed a protocol on direct cooperation up to the year 1990.

Tamara Glavak, deputy chairman of the state committee, who spoke at the ceremony, said that the signing of that document was a new step forward in Soviet-Cuban cooperation in the field of vocational and technical education.

The developed plan is based on the rich experience amassed by both countries in this field and envisages, among other points, joint examination of methodological and scientific research projects in the training of skilled workers and engineering and technical personnel.

Cuba's Malmierca Condemns U.S. Regional Policy

LD210945 Moscow TASS in English 0723 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Brasilia January 21 TASS—The United States' policy in Central America and its stubborn unwillingness to abandon the rendering of all-round aid to the contras remain the major obstacle to a peaceful settlement in the region, stated Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban minister of foreign affairs.

In answer to a question put here by a TASS correspondent during a press conference on the results of the official talks in the Brazilian capital, he emphasised that the proposals which the president of Nicaragua had put forward at the meeting of the presidents of five Central American states in San Jose had become a new reaffirmation of the political will and desire of the government and people of Nicaragua to ensure conditions for the realisation of the Central American peace plan.

At the same time, he pointed out, the realisation of the peace plan in practice will remain in jeopardy until the the United States shows such a will and ceases supporting the counter-revolutionaries in Nicaragua.

"As far as Cuba's stand is concerned", the minister pointed out, "we have always supported and shall continue to support all efforts aimed at achieving peace in Central America".

Komplektov on Working Visit to Latin America

Arrives in Bogota

LD171954 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1633 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Bogota, 17 Jan (TASS)—Viktor Komplektov, deputy minister of USSR foreign affairs, arrived here for a working visit. At the Colombian capital's airport, he was met by representatives of the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Komplektov held a press conference at the airport, during which he said that the promotion of political dialogue between the USSR and Colombia is the goal of his visit. In the course of the forthcoming meetings with the Colombian leadership, he said, topical issues of today's international situation and problems of bilateral relations will be examined.

Received by President Barco

LD201831 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1730 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Bogota, 20 Jan (TASS)—President Virgilio Barco Vargas of Colombia has received V.G. Komplektov, USSR deputy foreign minister, who is here. The thorough conversation, which passed off in a spirit of friendliness and mutual understanding, touched on a wide range of issues of interest to both countries.

The president listened with great attention and interest to the assessments of the international situation and the Soviet side's ideas as explained to him. They discussed the increase of nuclear disarmament efforts, the banning of the arms race from space, the strengthening of trust between countries, and the solution of acute problems that affect mankind as a whole. Virgilio Barco Vargas spoke highly of the Soviet Union's innovative approach to international affairs and particularly emphasized the importance of the Soviet-U.S. INF Treaty. He gave a positive appraisal of the USSR's constructive policy aimed at ending the deadlock over regional conflicts. The president also stated that Colombia would, for its part, independently and within the framework of international forums, assist the process of disarmament and strengthening of worldwide security, and continue to actively work towards achieving a just political settlement in Central America.

Both sides confirmed the intention to expand the areas of political cooperation and to undertake practical steps to develop Soviet-Colombian relations in various fields.

Holds Talks in Cuba

LD220344 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2205 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Havana, 22 Jan (TASS)—Jorge Risquet, member of the Politburo and Secretariat of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, received V.G. Komplektov, member of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission and USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs, who is here. In the course of a conversation, which took place in a warm, friendly atmosphere, there was an extensive exchange of views on a wide range of international problems of mutual interest.

V.G. Komplektov was also received by Manuel Pineiro, department chief of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee. In a businesslike and constructive conversation, some international questions were discussed in detail, primarily the situation in Central America from the point of view of its political settlement.

On the same day, a protocol was signed on cooperation between the USSR and the Cuban Ministries of Foreign Affairs for the years 1988-1992.

Nicaragua Signs Economic Cooperation Accords

PA161901 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] With the signing of six cooperation agreements between the USSR and Nicaragua yesterday afternoon at the Ricardo Morales Aviles House in Managua, Soviet cooperation for the next 3 years has been guaranteed. The protocol contains ambitious plans for industry, commerce, mining, agriculture, and transportation, which are important sectors of Nicaragua's economy.

The agreements were signed by Aleksandr Kachanov, first deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and by Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz, Nicaraguan minister of foreign cooperation. While the accords were being signed, Ruiz said there must be a solution to the foreign debt burdening Latin America, and that international cooperation is needed to find it. He referred to international economic disorder, and stated that during the most difficult times, people have received Soviet cooperation. Ruiz also referred to the efforts of the Central American governments to attain peace at the summit meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, while the USSR is contributing to the same objective by signing a cooperation agreement for the next 3 years. He noted that the two countries, in almost 1 decade of cooperation, have shared relations that are a model of friendship, contributions to development, and the strengthening of peace.

During the signing of the cooperation agreement, which will support Nicaragua's economy for the next 3 years, Kachanov described Nicaragua's use of Soviet aid as efficient.

In addition to the completion of projects that are under way, the agreements cover new and large investments, including the creation of a banana company; the installation of an irrigation system for 6,000 hectares in Managua, Masaya, and Granada; and the reactivation of the coffee industry. According to the protocol, energy, transportation, and mining companies will be created, or these sectors will be strengthened.

In evaluating the cooperation for 1987, Kachanov said a series of projects have been completed, but that further progress must be made. Kachanov, who is leading the Soviet delegation to the intergovernmental Nicaraguan-USSR joint commission, announced that during 1988-90 other forms of cooperation will be sought for Nicaragua. He noted that the new forms of cooperation will include the creation of mixed bilateral businesses between the USSR and Nicaragua that will even allow other countries to join the enterprises. Nevertheless, he stressed the efficiency of existing firms.

Contras Fail To Respond to Cease-Fire Talks Offer

LD221029 Moscow TASS in English 1017 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Havana January 22 TASS—Ringleaders of the Nicaraguan contras have not responded in any way to a proposal to immediately start ceasefire talks made to them by Cardinal Obando y Bravo in the capital of Costa Rica. He is acting as a mediator in contacts between the Government of Nicaragua and armed counterrevolutionary groups.

Contras leaders stated at a press conference in San Jose that they were ready to hold talks with the Nicaraguan Government on January 27 through 28, PRENSA LATINA reports. Touching upon a possibility of the discontinuation of hostilities, they said that an agreement on ceasefire in Nicaragua would not be reached until the 'excessive power of the Sandinista Front was disintegrated'. Journalists who took part in the press conference regarded the statement as the expansion of political demands of the contras to the Nicaraguan Government.

Central American Presidents Meeting Ends

LD171153 Moscow TASS in English 0720 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] San Jose January 17 TASS—The concluding document has crowned the meeting of the Central American presidents which ended in the Costa Rican capital on Saturday. Following intense and heated discussions the participants in the meeting agreed on the main question: The process of settlement ushered in by the Guatemala accords should be put into life in the near future. It is specifically necessary to have a ceasefire in the countries where hostilities are under way, an all-out amnesty, all-round democratisation.

The presidents reaffirmed the determination to hold elections to the Central American parliament this year. The Central American foreign ministers are to exercise control over compliance with the accords reached.

Ambasador to Costa Rica Interviewed

PA181330 Tegucigalpa La Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Interview with Soviet Ambassador to Costa Rica Vadim Rozanov by Chino Murillo and Julio Armando Valdes in San Jose, Costa Rica; reporters not individually identified—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] Mr Ambassador, President Arias has said that the objectives of the Esquipulas II peace plan have practically failed. How does your government, your country, see this situation while the Costa Rican Government is asking for the expulsion of the anti-Sandinists, and how can this help peace?

[Rozanov] We still believe in this process. It is true that there are many obstacles in the path of the peace process in Central America, but we believe that President Arias' peace plan in Central America should be fulfilled and can be fulfilled. However, it requires much effort from all involved, all the countries of Central America. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Many who oppose your government believe you are the promoters of this conflict through Cuba and Managua.

[Rozanov] I think we are promoters of the process of peace in this region. Our government and our leaders—Mr Gorbachev in all his interviews during the last few months, the last year—have emphasized support for all efforts to solve the regional conflict. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Some political observers believe Marxism is the principal cause of the Central American situation. However, you also believe that the United States with its intervention is also to blame for the conflict.

[Rozanov] We do not believe there is any Marxism in Central America, because I believe Nicaragua is a Sandinist country. I believe their ideology includes more elements of Sandinism and pluralism. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Would you go to Honduras to intervene or discuss problems of that nature with the president?

[Rozanov] We do not have diplomatic relations with Honduras. Of course, I have been planning to visit Honduras. I was in Honduras once, in 1970, with a group of our artists. We visited Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula for 2 or 3 days before I came to Costa Rica as adviser to the embassy. That is why I have some knowledge of this country, but not much.

I would like to say something about our relations with Honduras. The most important is that last year we made a few contacts with the Honduras Government, economic and commercial contacts especially. Last year we signed an agreement with Honduras, and now we are working to implement it, dealing with the exchange of (?beef), bananas, or other products for Soviet machinery or other products.

We have, I have, another bit of news for you. We have [words indistinct] the relations and exchange between our parliaments for peace. Last month, in December, we sent a note to the Honduran Embassy here in which we invited—no, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR invited—the Honduran National Congress to visit in November 1988.

[Reporter] That is an opening.

[Rozanov] Yes, to initiate, to begin, some parliamentary contacts between our countries.

[Reporter] Will this strengthen the Honduran economy or education?

[Rozanov] Naturally, but that is only the first step. We can then do some more, some cultural contacts, cultural exchanges. I know that our groups of artists already have visited Honduras. Naturally, one has to think why there is no USSR Embassy in Honduras. That is why we think about this [words indistinct] in Costa Rica. Naturally, we have to do something; we have to work to organize exchanges for the next 10 years, and exchange artistic groups and plan cultural exchanges each year. We are going to work for this. [passage omitted]

Haiti 'Elections' Provoke 'Civil Disobedience'

LD211143 Moscow TASS in English 0816 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Havana January 21 TASS—Tet Ansanm, one of the biggest opposition groups of Haiti, has announced that it is starting a civil disobedience campaign in protest against the results of a so-called 'general election' held by the ruling regime last Sunday.

A civil disobedience campaign includes the organization of massive strikes. The opposition group rallying civilian, public, religious and other organizations demanded that the results of that farce of an election be nullified. Antuan Adrian, head of Tet Ansanm, said that any regime created on the basis of the recent election would be propped by the bayonets of the Army and would manage the country with the help of repressions.

The results of the 'election' boycotted by 90 per cent of the population evoke strong protests of governments of the Caribbean countries. It became known here that the Government of Barbados had refused to recognize the future Government of Haiti. Cameron Tudor, minister of foreign affairs of Barbados, described the recent election in Haiti as an unseemly farce. He urged to reconsider the status of that country as an observer in the Caribbean Community (Caricom) and demanded that Haiti be admitted to that regional organization only on condition that a truly democratic government be created there. Governments of other Caricom member countries also refused to recognize the results of the 'general election' in Haiti. These include Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Lucia, chairman of that organization at the moment.

One of the broadcasting stations of Haiti reported that Louis Dejoie, prominent opposition figure, member of the Committee for Democratic Accord, former presidential candidate, had been arrested in Port-au-Prince last Wednesday. He was seized by the military upon his return from the U.S. in the presence of his political supporters and journalists who came to meet him at the airport. Political observers believe that in conditions of a mounting wave of protests the Namphy regime can resort to new repressions.

Political & Social

Zaykov Visits Krasnaya Presnya Combine

LD230000 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Comrade Zaykov, member of the Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and first secretary of the Moscow Gorkom, visited the workshops of the Trekhgornaya Manufaktura combine. At the center of the meeting's discussions with the workers from the combine were the problems of technical re-equipment of the capital's light industrial enterprises, the introduction of new methods of management, and the complex solution of all social issues.

Trekhgornaya Manufaktura has been working in conditions of financial autonomy and self-financing for 2 years. In frank discussions with workers and specialists factors that hinder the speeding up of social and economic development, the introduction of new methods of management, and the further democratization of society were revealed. Concrete recommendations directed at uncovering and utilizing internal resources for the improvement of production were expressed. Comrade Zaykov met with members of the bureau and the party apparatus of the CPSU Krasnaya Presnya Raykom. Issues relating to raising the role of party organizations in the management of restructuring were examined. On the occasion of the anniversary of the beginning of the revolution of 1905, flowers were laid at the monument of the heroes of Krasnaya Presnya.

Shevardnadze Awarded Order of Lenin

LD241106 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1046 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow, 24 Jan (TASS)—The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has awarded the Order of Lenin to Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister. He is being presented with the high award for his great services to the CPSU and to the Soviet state, and in connection with his 60th birthday.

Solovyev Attends Conductor Mravinskiy's Funeral

LD232354 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Thousands of Leningraders today saw off on his final journey Yevgeniy Aleksandrovich Mravinskiy, prominent conductor, Hero of Socialist Labor, Laureate of the Lenin Prize and the USSR State Prize People's Artist of the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

Comrade Solovyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningrad Party Obkom, representatives of the public, friends and pupils of the deceased formed an honor guard by the coffin in the funeral wake. The funeral of Yevgeniy Aleksandrovich Mravinskiy was held at Bogoslovskoye cemetry.

Leaders Sign Obituary

PM221249 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Jan 88 Second Edition p 3

[Obituary: "Yevgeniy Aleksandrovich Mravinskiy"]

[Excerpts] Soviet musical art has suffered an irreplaceable loss. The outstanding conductor Yevgeniy Aleksandrovich Mravinskiy, USSR People's Artist, Hero of Socialist Labor, and winner of the Lenin and the USSR State Prizes, has died in his 85th year.

Ye.A. Mravinskiy was born in Petersburg 4 June 1903. [passage omitted]

M.S. Gorbachev, V.I. Vorotnikov, A.A. Gromyko, L.N. Zaykov, Ye.K. Ligachev, V.P. Nikonov, N.I. Ryzhkov, N.N. Slyunkov, M.S. Solomentsev, V.M. Chebrikov, E.A. Shevardnadze, V.V. Shcherbitskiy, A.N. Yakovlev, P.N. Demichev, Yu.F. Solovyev, G.P. Razumovskiy, Yu.P. Voronov, Yu.A. Sklyarov, A.N. Aksenov, V.G. Zakharov, Ye.M. Chekharin, S.A. Shalayev, M.K. Anikushin, I.K. Arkhipova, A.A. Belyayev, A.N. Gerasimov, I.O. Gorbachev, A.Ya. Degtyarev, A. Dzhumakmatov, O.A. Dimitriadi, A.S. Dmitriyev, V.B. Dudarova, Ye.V. Zaytsev, T.V. Zakharova, V.I. Kazenin, D.I. Kakhidze, D.G. Kitayenko, K.Yu. Lavrov, D.S. Likhachev, G.M. Markov, Yu.S. Melentyev, I.A. Naumenko, A.P. Petrov, B.B. Piotrovskiy, N.I. Popov, S.T. Rikhter, G.N. Rozhdestvenskiy, Ye.F. Svetlanov, G.V. Sviridov, Yu.I. Simonov, S.Ya. Sondetskis, Yu.Kh. Temirkanov, G.A. Tovstonogov, V.V. Tretyakov, S.V. Turchak, A.M. Fateyev, V.I. Fedoseyev, V.Ya. Khodyrev, T.N. Khrennikov, V.A. Chernushenko, D.B. Shafran, R.K. Shchedrin, and M.A. Yansons.

Vasnetsov Elected Artists Union Chairman

LD221228 Moscow TASS in English 1158 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow January 22 TASS—Andrey Vasnetsov, 63, has been elected chairman of the Board of the Artists' Union of the USSR. He replaced Nikolay Ponomarev who had held that post since 1973. The results of the election were announced today at a final sitting of the Artists' Union held in the Grand Kremlin Palace.

The Board of the Artists' Union of the USSR is made up today of some 250 people.

Union Head Ponomarev Addresses Artists' Congress
PM221529 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jan 88
First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Art's Civic Vocation. The Seventh USSR Artists' Union Congress Opens"]

[Text] The intelligentsia and the Soviet Artists' Union, a large detachment of it, have an important part to play in the enormous creative work on restructuring the country. This creative organization brings together more than 20,000 exponents of all types and genres of the visual arts and critics.

It is the job of the Seventh USSR Artists' Congress to discuss the tasks produced by the times and determine the scale of upcoming work to consolidate our moral values, improve society, and strengthen the people's spirit. It opened on 19 January in the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow.

The delegates and guests greeted with applause comrades V.I. Vorotnikov, A.A. Gromyko, L.N. Zaykov, Ye.K. Ligachev, N.I. Ryzhkov, N.N. Slyunkov, M.S. Solomentsev, V.M. Chebrikov, P.N. Demichev, V.I. Dolgikh, B.N. Yeltsin, N.V. Talyzin, A.F. Dobrynin, A.F. Lukyanov, G.P. Razumovskiy, and I.V. Kapitonov.

Prominent figures of the visual arts and representatives of party, soviet, and public organizations and labor collectives were also in the presidium. The leaders of socialist countries' artists' unions were present.

The congress agenda comprised the accountability reports of the USSR Artists' Union and Central Auditing Commission and the election of the creative union's leading bodies.

The accountability report of the USSR Artists' Union Board was delivered by its chairman, N.A. Ponomarev.

The 5-year period under review was for us a time of fundamental changes for which democratization and glasnost paved the way, he said.

Time itself dictates the need for art to openly address social problems and the processes of a more profound interpretation of the phenomena of reality. Socialist artistic culture elevates the individual and reveals the creative foundation of his labor.

In an appeal to the citizens of Russia promulgated in the period immediately after the victory of Great October it was proclaimed: "Art is the beautiful things that talented people have been able to create... That testify to the beauty and strength of the human spirit."

When analyzing the development of the visual arts in the past 5-year period we are, as it were, again going over the difficult path of doubts and contradictions in comprehending the creative truth. In the conflicts between customary notions and today's realities of life, in the clash between one's own fixed ego and the dynamics of unparalleled social transformations is born the artist's new attitude toward his professional, civic vocation. Outward prosperity and complacency and illustrations of pompous subjects and slogans are disappearing forever from creative practice. The complex world of human feelings and the relationship between the individual and society are acquiring a strong emotional content. New trends and directions are acquiring the right to compete creatively.

The atmosphere of trust and tolerance and frank exchange of views is spiritually emancipating the social consciousness, and the Soviet visual arts are participating in this creative process.

The fundamental purpose of restructuring has been expressed absolutely clearly: more socialism, more democracy. It embraces all aspects of our life, revealing the very essence of the changes taking place in the country. Their beneficial influence is felt everywhere. The future of the homeland and the future of mankind depend more than ever before on each of us, our energy and belief.

When signing the treaty on the elimination of two types of nuclear missiles, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stressed: "A people is not an abstract concept. It consists of human beings, and each person has the right to live and to want happiness." Never before have politics addressed so directly people's feelings and reason, proclaiming as its ideal a nuclear-free world for the sake of progress and the salvation of civilization.

In conditions of democratization we have revealed to the world our achievements and our problems. In both cases mankind can see the sincere expression of feelings and ideas that are common to all the people of the world.

The speaker then dwelt on the main spheres of the USSR Artists' Union's activity. Over the 5 years there has been an increase in exhibition activity and in the propaganda of Soviet multinational visual arts. Exhibition halls have been built. The production areas of certain combines in the republics have been expanded. The demand for creative workshops has been partially met, although the problem remains very acute—especially for large urban organizations. Of course, we have not been able to cope with all the tasks, particularly those concerned with strengthening the material production base. In this case we have been given a great deal of concrete assistance by the country's party and state leadership, the speaker stressed.

A long-term program for artists' participation in the process of revolutionary transformations was defined by the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution "On Measures To Further Develop the Visual Arts and Increase Their Role in the Communist Education of Working People."

State and soviet organizations have the job of aiding as much as possible the development of Soviet artistic culture and the improvement and strengthening of its production potential.

The matter of giving republic collectives and Moscow and Leningrad organizations greater independence was given prominence at republic congresses and report and election conferences, the speaker pointed out. He announced that a preliminary draft of a new edition of the USSR Artists' Union statutes has been prepared and the union board secretariat has approved it. Now existing opinions and proposals must be studied in detail and generalized and submitted for discussion by an all-union conference of the USSR Artists' Union. The new board must elect a statutes commission which will continue this work.

To be frank, the stagnation phenomena of past years did not produce a flourishing artistic culture. But art has developed, worthy works have appeared, enriching national schools and traditions, and there have been undoubted creative discoveries, the speaker stressed.

When assessing that period it would be better to concentrate on the best works in our exhibitions and not on the stuff that has polluted them. In any situation we expect the artist and the critic to be honest with regard to art and the observer.

Particularly today, when we are talking about free artistic endeavor as an essential condition of artistic viability, works should be assessed in terms of their artistic merits, use of images, and ideological content and in terms of the standard of professional expertise.

Socialism offers unlimited opportunities for displaying the spiritual and cultural potential of every nation and every people. In our creative work we must realize this potential to make national schools and fraternal cultures flourish, bring them closer together, and unite them. In our art attempts to impose someone's views and principles are out of place. The end result is a genuine artistic work; it is the most persuasive argument in a creative discussion.

Unfortunately, we are increasingly encountering a one-sided, superficial attitude toward national traditions which in art have often been identified with a specific set of ethnographic markers and external attributes and a conventional interpretation of national character.

Each national culture and each ethnic group has a unique spiritual history and its own special traditions and customs. It is this uniqueness that provides a wealth of individual creative entities, schools, and trends which have become united in our country on the basis of mutual respect for and commitment to one another.

We can justifiably take pride in the unique diversity of Soviet artistic culture. Without the moral realization of this it is difficult to implement the entire spiritual and artistic potential that we possess.

The all-union exhibition "The Soviet Land" which has opened in Moscow is an event in cultural life. The fact that it has been visited by the leaders of the party and the government emphasizes once again the significance of our art. After the tour of the exhibition there was an amicable and frank conversation with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, Politburo members, and CPSU Central Committee secretaries about the distinctiveness of national schools and traditions. Amid the diversity of stylistic directions and trends, mention was made of the chief one—the fact that our realistic art addresses man, his feelings, thoughts, and interests. For us this exhibition opens up the prospect of the multistyle development of national artistic schools in the general context of socialist culture.

At all times the state of art has directly or indirectly reflected the specific social situation. Today, when ascertaining the causes of stagnation phenomena in artistic culture, we draw attention to the fact that they have been in many respects secondary. Although in the best works produced in the past 5 years there has been a quest for new ways of treating the social and ethical problems of modern society and a desire to assert moral values, it must be admitted that we ourselves have lost to some extent the idea of the social authority of the profession of artist.

Bureaucratic habits are still having an inhibiting effect on public initiatives, and a mass of trivial organizational matters sometimes obscures the main creative problems. There is a greater need than ever before for the consolidation of all creative forces, that is, creative forces capable of a new perception of the revolutionary changes taking place in life and of approaching everything with a sense of responsibility for the quality of one's own personal work and of collective work.

The artist has the right to experiment in order to create worthwhile pictures and sculptures. But just as one cannot be allowed to turn the traditions of realism into dogma, one must not turn endeavor into something absurd. We must not be frightened by a variety of views and assessments; after all, it is argument that defines more clearly public opinion and the extent to which art influences it.

Ever since October art has developed through revolutionary transformations and discoveries. Over the decades enormous creative experience has been accumulated, and it is natural today to turn to this invaluable heritage, to our classics which are part of the anthology of world culture. The continuity of traditions, the total understanding of them, and their creative interpretation and development reveal potential for discoveries in image representation.

The pinnacle of art is always determined by talent. It cannot be replaced either by advanced methods, by vowing loyalty to realism, or by shouting from a platform. The main thing remains the purpose for which the artistic work is being created.

When considering the centuries-long history of art, we note the tenacity of realistic trends and their creative power and diversity of means of expression. Man remains the object of the the intellectual study of realism. It is realistic art that has always insisted that man is the most important object in the universe.

The moral foundation of socialism incorporates the humanist ideals of the improvement of the individual and of his free and harmonious development. The entire diversity of our artistic culture and of the art of socialist realism, based on Lenin's principles of people- and party-mindedness, asserts the dignity of man as the foundation of the revolutionary transformations of life.

The artist's inner world is complex and sometimes contradictory and the creative person has a special sensitivity, a heightened perception of life. He cannot be indifferent to cruelty and ruthlessness whether in respect of people or nature, the present day or history.

Inconsiderate, thoughtless interference by man destroys the beauty that has formed the spiritual world of many generations. Levitan's celebrated pools are no more [I.I. Levitan (1860-1900) did various paintings of the Volga and its "pools"], the groves of ship timber have been chopped down, the small rivers in Central Russia are getting shallower and shallower, and water meadows have been plowed up. Can we artists, who have the task of preserving in the human memory and soul the eternal idea of beauty, remain passive onlookers? The visual arts can also be regarded as an effective means of protecting age-old beauty.

But the "residue principle" as applied to culture is still alive and well. It is a striking fact that it is manifested in the thinking of a still considerable number of people who are equally indifferent to the beauties of nature, the monuments of the past, and art. Through our creative work we must resolutely combat this attitude, instilling in every person a highly developed, all-embracing love of the homeland and of its past and present.

We attach very great importance to instilling creative activity in young people. Youth associations have united them around the Artists' Union and enabled them to participate more widely in public and artistic life.

The youth exhibitions that have been held are evidence of the great creative potential of young artists, and their works are increasingly occupying a worthy place in exhibitions.

It is necessary to preserve and support all the talented and healthy elements that undoubtedly exist in young people's art. Of course, creative endeavor should be distinguished from fanciful sensations and slavish imitation of examples of so-called "mass culture." Here too critics and senior artistic colleagues, who are supposed to help young people in their choice of a creative career, should speak out. But, while displaying concern for young people, it is necessary to trust them more as well.

Having noted that the state of contemporary art and the development trends of the different types and genres are reflected by exhibitions, the speaker analyzed the activity of exhibition halls over the 5-year period. He announced that there has been a doubling in the number of traveling exhibitions, which have been to nearly 800 cities. The number of exhibitions of Soviet art sent abroad has doubled. In the 5-year period more than 7,000 exhibitions have opened—all-union, republican, different types and genres, group and individual. But despite the intensive exhibition activity, public interest in exhibitions is declining. So one should clearly differentiate between exhibitions, not only in terms of types and genres, but also in terms of the section of the public they are aimed at.

The question of improving exhibitions is a question of real artistic life. Just as the public has the right to choose what art they look at, the artist must have the opportunity to acquire his own public. The Artists' Union, the Ministry of Culture, and the Academy of Arts must make every effort to accelerate the implementation of programs for the construction of comprehensive exhibition centers and small galleries and halls and put on more exhibitions in palaces and houses of culture, rayon exhibition halls, movie, concert, and sports complexes, and other culture facilities.

But exhibitions are only a part of visual arts propaganda, whose general state we cannot regard as satisfactory. In part this is due to the work of art experts and critics.

We expect critics to make an unprejudiced, conclusive analysis of artists' work, contributing to the fruitful development of talent. Periodicals have started publishing telling articles, mainly of a critical nature, on specific topics. It would be useful if they were also to publish substantive items containing constructive ideas. We must learn the art of holding creative debates, learn to be tolerant and to respect an opponent's opinion and argue one's viewpoint.

A substantial part of the report was devoted to artists' involvement in the implementation of the comprehensive statewide program of aesthetic education. The program includes sponsorship activity by the union and its involvement in the educational reform and in improving artistic education. But even the most long-term creative program cannot be implemented without a material-production base. Ours is the arts foundation. There is much criticism of it at the moment.

The foundation's structure and the way it operates are not mobile enough in restructuring conditions. It is now necessary, not only in status but even in name, to bring the foundation's activity closer to the union's creative tasks, to artists' specific needs. Our board's ninth plenum decided to change the name of the USSR Arts Foundation to the USSR Artists' Union Arts Foundation.

It would be splendid if the constant concern for creative people and artists were to become part of the practice of our relationships with all republic, oblast, and city party and state and soviet organizations, as happened, for example, in Krasnoyarsk with the creation of the Siberian-Far East Branch of the USSR Academy of Arts.

Our art is becoming an established part of Soviet people's labor and everyday lives, and the moral climate of society depends on its quality. Our national economy is also becoming increasingly interested in artists. This is because it is necessary to increase the production of high-quality consumer goods, including those with aesthetic qualities. In view of this the problem arises of training skilled artistic cadres of various creative disciplines, arranging jobs for them and establishing their status in the production sphere.

Then the speaker reported on the USSR Artists' Union's international links as part of the general policy of widening cultural cooperation. They include exchanges of exhibitions and the organization of international symposiums and gatherings; joint creative groups; and participation in the work of UNESCO organizations.

An important part in work on the Artists' Union's international links is played by the activity of our representatives in international organizations under UNESCO: the Art Critics' Association and the Plastic Arts Association. All this work of ours is geared to establishing a fitting place for Soviet art in world artistic culture and propagandizing our ideals and the Soviet way of life.

Recently there has been a sharp increase in the number of artistic exhibitions going abroad. Their composition and quality are not always representative of the level of development of the visual arts in our country. The stepping up of activities abroad must not have a detrimental effect on quality. Occasional, once-only exchanges of exhibitions with foreign colleagues and partners must be replaced by a long-term system of permanently operating 2-, 3- or 4-yearly international competitions in all types and genres of art.

We are optimistic about the future. It is today's actions that create the future. The program outlined by the CPSU Central Committee January and June (1987) Plenums creates a realistic basis for the solution of vitally important problems in the economic, social, and spiritual spheres. All our creative activity is developing in line with the interests of socialism, the interests of the people. The thorough demonstration of the humanist content of socialism is one of Soviet art's paramount tasks. In our country talent is a national asset. Its full development requires a highly intellectual, democratic atmosphere and comradely principledness. It is the duty of the creative union and its very purpose, the speaker said in conclusion, to provide all the conditions for bringing together the exponents of our art, fully realizing the potential of every artist, and creating works about people, the history of the people's spirit, and about the times we live in.

The Central Auditing Commission report was delivered by its acting chairman, M.V. Lukyanov.

This was followed by the start of the debate.

Estonian Plenum Relieves Ideology Secretary

PM221515 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Jan 88 Second Edition p 2

[PRAVDA correspondent V. Shirokov article: "Inertia of Old Attitudes," under the rubric "Party Life: Elected Organs' Reports"]

[Text] Tallin—A day before the plenum the Estonian Communist Party Central Committee used the local press to convey its appreciation to Communists and nonparty people who sent in their proposals and observations in connection with its forthcoming report on work to lead the restructuring process. The bureau instructed party, soviet, and economic organs to examine constructive proposals contained in the letters. Many of them were used when preparing for the plenum.

A great many letters were sent in response to the appeal by the Estonian Communist Party Central Committee. Unfortunately, actual Central Committee members proved to be far less active: When the results of the poll were summed up it transpired that one in four had not answered the questionnaire at all. The "dodgers" included 11 ministry and department heads and many first secretaries of party committees and directors of enterprises and economic units. The admission from the plenum rostrum by Ya. Martin, first secretary of Paydeskiy party raykom, was particularly telling:

"Frank, militant reports are being heard in the primary party organizations. Ordinary Communists are setting us an example of principled behavior. At the grassroots people are vitally interested in restructuring. But among us party workers, many are still following the old methods..."

The Central Committee Bureau report is something new and different, requiring untraditional approaches. Many such approaches were found in the process of detailed preparation for the plenum. But the old approaches still made themselves felt, nevertheless: The proverbial admonishing finger was wagged from the rostrum time

and again. A considerable number of reproachful, sermonizing words were addressed to lower soviet and trade union organizations by A. Ryuytel, member of the Central Committee Bureau and chairman of the Estonian Supreme Soviet Presidium, and M. Pedak, member of the Central Committee Bureau and chairman of the Estonian Republic Trade Union Council. A. Almann, candidate member of the Central Committee Bureau and first secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee, typically criticized Komsomol organizations and committees for formalism. There was no place in their speeches for a principled analysis of their own errors and shortcomings. B. Saul, member of the Central Committee Bureau and chairman of the Estonian Council of Ministers, and N. Ganyushov, member of the Central Committee Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, reverted to generalization every so often.

The strength of inertia could also be felt in other speeches during the discussion. Yu. Kraft, the republic's light industry minister, and V. Miroshnichenko, general director of the "M.I. Kalinin Tallin Electrical Engineering Plant" Association, devoted their speeches entirely to production matters. It was as if they had not even seen the plenum agenda.

Of course, restructuring's economic platform is a matter of paramount importance, as it represents the bridgehead from which the radical reform of economic management is being launched. It is no accident that a good third of the bureau report given by K. Vayno, first secretary of the Estonian Communist Party Central Committee, dealt with these concerns. However, both in the report and in the speeches from the plenum rostrum the viewpoint expressed was not always distinguished by its clear aim to analyze the political and organizational activity of the Central Committee and the members of its bureau with regard to leadership of the restructuring process. What does this show? It mainly shows that party workers have still to shake the habit of assuming the functions of economic workers.

The facts show that members of the Central Committee apparatus sometimes not only substitute economic workers but also do not always trust their colleagues in the lower party committees. Not without reason did E. Peek, first secretary of Vilyandiskiy Raykom, and A. Luukas, first secretary of Raplaskiy Raykom, complain that important decisions are sometimes taken in the Central Committee and the government without a broad preliminary discussion with rayon representatives and that time and again members of the Central Committee apparatus question nominations for leading posts proposed by the raykoms.

"How can we be expected to cultivate confidence and the sense of being in charge among rural workers," Kh. Parik, director of the "Tartu" model support sovkhoz, said, "if farm managers are continually criticized, we are under administrative pressure, and there is constant reshuffling and reorganization? This shows that we are not really trusted."

A cutting appraisal, perhaps, but true nevertheless. Agriculture has a considerable number of problems. Grain output is not increasing. The last 2 years' plans for purchases of potatoes, vegetables, fruit and berries, and flax were not met. One in four rayons have not met plans for the sale of livestock and poultry.

The Central Committee Bureau has made no real demands on agro-industrial leaders and has not always given a critical, exacting assessment of their work style and methods. This is no accident: A. Upsi, member of the Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, who is responsible for agriculture, is often bogged down with routine matters. The fact that he is caught up in immediate economic matters has sometimes prevented him from concentrating on the more important aspects of his work.

Estonia is rightly considered a test ground for experimenting with new forms of economic management. Suffice it to recall that the ideas of forming agro-industrial committees and a trade and industry complex and organizing an integrated body to manage the construction complex—the republic's Gosstroy—were "run in" here. A general scheme of national economic management is now being developed, the structure of which will be based on amalgamated units linking related sectors.

In short, quite a lot is being done. But whereas hopeful breakthroughs promising real feedback have been made in the economic sphere, the Central Committee's ideological work is clearly failing to keep pace with the rapid progress of restructuring. This was discussed with concern in working people's letters, questionnaires, and the speeches by plenum participants. In addition to democratization, the development of glasnost, and citizens' awakening social activeness, antisocial elements are also making themselves felt and some nationalists and people hostile to socialism are making clear attempts to gain the political arena, so to speak. There are attempts to play on national feeling and a tendency to "erode" the concept of class and idealize the notion of a bourgeois republic. Echoes of these sentiments and ideas are reaching the press and the airwaves.

The following was stated in the report:

"R. Ristlaan, secretary of the Central Committee, is personally responsible for the state of ideological work. In the conditions created by the rapidly developing democratization of social life, he has been unable to ensure the efficient functioning of the ideological system, particularly in international education, counterpropaganda, and the struggle against nationalist elements. This

is most apparent in his methods of press leadership. He is still trying to solve complex issues in an officious manner and has allowed subjectivism to creep into his appraisals."

Mistaken opinions are not always properly rebuffed by Communists and creeping nationalism—if not duly rebuked—sometimes misinforms public opinion. A. Meri, chairman of the Estonian Friendship Society and hero of the Soviet Union, said that the report had properly, if somewhat belatedly, answered many painful issues concerning ideological work in the republic. At the same time, it really is time to give a principled appraisal of those Communists who are ideologically shaky, sometimes themselves contribute to whipping up unhealthy sentiments, and advocate theories that are wrong from a class standpoint—even in the press.

"People are not born internationalists," V. Boytsova, team leader at the "Kokhtla-Yarve" Sovkhoz livestock breeding farm, said in support of the veteran. "They become them. Incidentally, we working people have no time for national conceit."

It is no accident that hostile elements bypass plants and labor collectives—they know in advance that they will find no support there. They operate in back streets and cemeteries, preferring to move under cover of darkness. Their actions must not be underestimated.

A program of international and patriotic education for the population and young people is currently being drawn up and clarified in the republic. The Central Committee has created a sector for counterpropaganda and international relations. The plenum expressed the wish that members of the Bureau and secretaries of the Central Committee systematically elucidate topical problems via the press, radio, and television.

The plenum discussed an organizational issue. R. Ristlaan was relieved of his duties as secretary and member of the Estonian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau in connection with his reassignment.

Obkom First Secretary in Kazakhstan Replaced

LD231442 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] A plenum of the Dzhezkazgan party obkom was held today to discuss an Obkom Bureau report on work regarding the management of restructuring. An organizational matter was also considered. The plenum released Comrade Davydov from his duties as first secretary of the party obkom in connection with his retirement on health grounds. Comrade Yezhikov-Babakhanov, who has worked as minister of installation and special construction work of the Kazakh SSR, was elected first secretary. Comrade Kubashev, second secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee, spoke at the plenum.

Prosecutor's Office Collegium Discusses Orphans

LD210254 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Today a session of the USSR Prosecutor's Office Collegium was held at which the issue was examined of enforcing the legislation in respect to protecting the rights of orphaned children. Our correspondent Anatoliy Fedorov attended the collegium. Listen to what he has to say.

[Fedorov] They say that statistics know everything, but it turns out—this became clear at the collegium—that they do not know how many orphaned children there are in our country. Official data point to the fact 700,000 adopted and fostered children are being raised in the families of working people, families unrelated to them. More than 180,000 are being kept in children's homes, orphanages, and boarding schools. These figures are not, however, complete, as I have already mentioned, and do not reflect the actual situation. Many thousands of orphaned children who are in fact not taken into account and children deprived of the guardianship of their parents are being kept in general education boarding schools, vocational training schools, boarding schools for children who are mentally or physically retarded, or in homes for child invalids. In practice, they are outside the sphere of the activity of guardianship and wardship bodies. Control over the observance of their rights and interests is not ensured.

What have the checks shown? A terrible picture. Nutritional standards are not observed, food of the correct calorific value is not given to them, there are numerous cases of insufficient foodstuffs being delivered, and of misappropriation of foodstuffs. In most of the institutions, leisure activities are badly organized. The life of teenagers is monotonous and boring. They also have no opportunity to develop their creative inclinations. Among those raised in these institutions the drinking of alcoholic beverages and toxic substances and manifestations of hooliganism are common. Over the last 3 years more than 20,000 teenagers have been convicted of committing various crimes.

What about medical treatment? It does, as they say, leave much to be desired. Among the children living in children's homes, approximately half are suffering from central nervous system disturbances. Ninety percent of those at boarding schools are suffering from various types of psychological disturbances. The violation of the law is explained to a considerable extent by errors made in selecting teaching staff. People with a criminal record, drunkards, who allow instances of amoral and antipedagogical behavior, are often employed in such jobs. All this happens right before the very eyes of the children. It is no secret that there are still instances of corporal punishment and abuse.

Radical restructuring in the work of the USSR Ministry of Education which provides cadres for these institutions has not taken place. This was confirmed by First Deputy Minister Anatoliy Antonovich Korobeynikov, who was summoned to the USSR Prosecutor's Office Collegium. Summing up the results of the collegium, Aleksandr Mikhaylovich Rekunkov, chief prosecutor of the USSR, said:

[Rekunkov] Today when we once again touched upon this, as I would put it, burning problem, we felt how ashamed we all are. It is not just a question of some kind of shortcomings, of some kind of omissions, it is a question of big, serious phenomena that are occurring in this microcosm, which is, moreover, an extremely specific type of work, and in this respect, requiring more serious attention on the part of state bodies and public organizations. Therefore, all our activity must be fundamentally improved in relation to definite deeds, in relation to control and checking that things are being done, and also in relation to honesty and conscientiousness on the part of the managing bodies themselves.

First Results of TU-154 Crash Investigation

LD231325 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1241 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow, 23 Jan (TASS)—The investigation into the causes of the TU-154 aircraft crash on 18 January at Krasnovodsk airport (eastern shore of the Caspian Sea), has yielded its first results. These are reported today by the VOZDUSHNYY TRANSPORT newspaper.

A state commission has established that the destruction of the aircraft occurred on the runway, not on the earth, as was reported in some sources of information. The aircraft landed with heightened vertical speed and enhanced g-force stresses. The impact caused it to break into two parts near seat no 25, and the parts then veered to the left onto the dirt. Despite fractures in the wing sections and a fuel leak, there was no fire since the front part of the aircraft lost its power supply, while the engines, together with the tail section, were hurled aside.

Specialists noted that the crew and stewards acted decisively and assisted the evacuation of passengers down inflated shutes.

Attention was also drawn to the precise and rapid actions of firemen and the accident rescue team.

There were, unfortunately, casualties: 11 of the 137 passengers died, several were hospitalized, including the flight engineer and navigator. First aid was given to all the injured. After a rest, the passengers on the flight were conveyed to their destinations on special flights. Aeroflot has assumed the task of giving assistance to the families of the deceased.

The commission is continuing its work.

2000 Tatars Protest Exile of Activist

AU251702 Paris AFP in English 1631 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow, Jan 25 (AFP)—Two thousand Soviet Tatars demonstrated in the Crimean town of Belagorsk on Sunday against the internal exile of Tatar activist Kazym Khalikov, dissident sources said here Monday.

Mr. Khalikov, 30, is one of 10,000 Tatars who have moved back to the Crimean Peninsula, which juts into the Black Sea, since the ethnic group were hounded out under former Soviet leader Josef Stalin in 1944.

The dissident newssheet EXPRESS-KHRONIKA said he was expelled on January 17, adding that his house in a village near Belagorsk had been razed the following day.

During Sunday's protest the party chief in Belagorsk told the protesters Mr Khalikov's rights would be restored within 10 days, the newssheet said. The security forces did not intervene during the six-hour demonstration.

Meanwhile Crimean Tatars in Soviet Central Asia, where, thanks to Stalin, most of the ethnic group now live, have staged several small demonstrations this month to protest at the alleged beating up of Tatar spokeswoman Sabrie Seoutova in Moscow in December, EXPRESS-KHRONIKA said.

By the end of last week she had still not recovered from the head injuries she sustained and was under threat of incarceration in a mental hospital, the newssheet said.

The Soviet news agency TASS on Thursday condemned the Tatar protests and said Mrs Seoutova's claims were unfounded.

Court Rejects Charges Against Passport Office

LD221331 Hamburg DPA in German 1230 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Moscow (DPA)—Forty-three Soviet citizens who for years have been refused permission to emigrate, have now turned to the courts in the hope of finding the improved conditions of law and justice promised by the Soviet leadership. However, the competent Moscow district court has rejected all charges against the passport and visa office, a spokesman for the group said at a press briefing in Moscow today.

The Soviet citizens had based their complaint on the right to freedom of entry and exit which is officially recognized in the Soviet Union. However, the court had disclaimed competence and referred the plaintiffs to the Interior Ministry, to which the passport and visa office is in turn subordinate, the spokesman added. "The court is

thus referring us precisely to the authority which we want to lodge a complaint against." The majority of the group nevertheless still want to try for a hearing at another court. [passage omitted]

The group say that around 200 families in Moscow alone have been refused permission to emigrate. The authorities claim they were familiar with secrets. But around 90% of them had left their former professions 10 years ago. Even people who had never worked in an area considered sensitive to security were refused permission on these grounds.

Refusnik Professor Lerner Arrives in Vienna
AU241452 Paris AFP in English 1422 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Vienna, Jan 24 (AFP)—Soviet Jewish Professor Aleksandr Lerner, 73, who waited 16 years to emigrate from the Soviet Union, arrived here Sunday with three members of his family.

Mr Lerner, a internationally-known cybernetics expert, first applied to emigrate in 1971, making him one of the country's longest term "refuzniks".

He will leave again for Israel after three day's rest here.

Mr Lerner, who had been refused the right to emigrate earlier because he knew "state secrets", was finally given permission to leave at the end of December.

He was involved in secret work inside the Soviet Union 25 years ago but pointed out that the results of this work had subsequently been made public abroad.

He said on arrival on a Soviet Aeroflot flight here that he was "happy" to be able to settle in Israel but regretted having to leave behind thousands of Jews who also want to emigrate.

He was accompanied on arrival here by his son Vladimir, 42, his daughter-in-law Tanya, 26, and his granddaughter Yulia, 2.

Lithuanian Clergy Refute Persecution Reports
LD201759 Moscow TASS in English 1657 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Vilnius January 20 TASS—Representatives of Lithuania's religious community have nothing in common with the note-books titled the "Chronicle of Lithuania's Catholic Church" which are being circulated here anomymously. Newspapers appearing in Vilnius, capital of Lithuania, report that the "Chronicle" used in Western radio station broadcasts constitutes a set of sheer fabrications.

Prelate Algirdas Gutauskas, secretary of the Episcopal Conference of the Lithuanian Catholic Church, manager of the Vilnius Archdiocese, said in an interview with the newspaper "TIESA" (TRUTH) that he did not sanction the publication of the "Chronicle".

The poll of people whose addresses are mentioned by the "Chronicle" fully refuted its fabrications about the persecution of schoolchildren for religious beliefs. For instance, the report that in Vesvenay village teachers banned schoolchildren from taking part in the funeral of Bronjus Savickas, sacristan of the local parish, was not confirmed. Conversely, schoolchildren laid a wreath and flowers at the coffin of the deceased and took part in the funeral procession.

The report about the alleged theft of the Statute of the Holies from the yard of the church in Lenkimay and the local authorities' indifference to what had happened also turned out to be fake. There was no theft whatsoever, said Antanas Gariyonis, dean of the church.

"The authorities do not oppress our church", says Zigmas Gustajnis, dean of a church in Birstonas, a resort locality. "Parishioners have what to be engaged in without the 'Chronicle'. [sentence as received] The restructuring is in progress. Things are getting better".

The clergyman also confirmed the following facts: A building for a church was turned over to the Catholic community in the port city of Klaypeda. God's temple was extended in Salcininkaj, restoration work is under way in other places, the enrollment to the theological seminary in the city of Kaunas was increased.

Ukraine Church, Government Discuss Legalization
LD241743 Vatican City International Service in German 1500 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Kiev/Bonn—The application for the legalization of the Ukranian Catholic Church, which has been banned in the Soviet Union since 1964, handed in to the Supreme Soviet on 13 August 1987 has led to first contacts between the church and representatives of the government. Ukrainian exile circles told the CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY that two ordained bishops were asked to Kiev for talks on this issue. There is no news on the results of the talks.

Jewish Museum Opens in Moscow Apartment
AU251207 Paris AFP in English 1142 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow, Jan 25 (AFP)—A museum of Jewish culture has been opened in a Moscow flat by a group of Jewish academics, who have appealed to the authorities for help with the project.

Architect Erika Rosenberg, whose flat is being used, said permission to open the museum had been sought from the local authorities in Moscow and although no reply had yet been received, she was confident it would be in the affirmative.

She said the museum's organisers hoped that other Jews and the authorities would participate in the venture. "The desire of a people to preserve its cultural heritage is something that everyone can understand", she said.

The museum, which is based round the Jewish religious festivals, as yet only occupies one room of the flat and will be open on Sundays.

The last Jewish museum in the Soviet Union, which was in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi, closed in 1951.

There were once Jewish museums in Odessa, in the Ukraine, and Samarkand, in Uzbekistan, and a Jewish foundation at Baku in Azerbaijan.

There was also an important museum of Jewish history and ethnography in Leningrad, open from 1916 to 1917 and again from 1923 to 1929, which was founded by the writer Shlomo An-Skii.

Anti-Semitic Motive Denied in Leningrad Murder

PM221514 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian
22 Jan 88 p 2

[M. Melnik report under the rubric "'Dialogue' Political Club": "A Farce With Overtones: Staged by Western Radio Voices. But the Venture Failed"]

[Text] Leningrad—On 27 September, 73-year-old Naum Mikhaylovich Nemchenko was found murdered in his three-room apartment in No 45 Morskaya Embankment. He was a lecturer, formerly chief of the electrical engineering faculty at the Arkhangelsk Forestry Engineering Institute, and in recent years a pensioner.

It so happened that some people tried to turn the tragedy into a farce, in this case a farce with political overtones. The foreign radio stations instantly spread the news of a "political murder in Leningrad" based on "anti-Semitism." The reasons for the murder were described in various ways. Some told listeners that agents of the Soviet special services must have been involved, and that they "removed" a dangerous speaker before he went to the capital. He was to deliver a denunciatory speech on the "Jewish question."

What really happened that September night? The city prosecutor's office and criminal investigation department immediately became involved in the hunt for the criminals. People suspected of the crime were arrested 48 hours later.

...For them, it all began back in June. A group who had lived together in that apartment block for many years were seeing off one of their members, who was joining the army. This was Semen Nemchenko, the 18-year-old son of Naum Mikhaylovich. They decided to celebrate the event.

"I have no money," Semen shyly refused.

But persuasion prevailed. With two friends (later to be charged), Semen went up to the apartment and "borrowed" R150, showing the guests, as if in passing, a fat roll of bills.

It was then, during Semen Nemchenko's sendoff party, that two of his acquaintances came under investigation by the Vasileostrovskiy Rayon criminal investigation departments. Returning drunk from the party, they offered resistance to militia workers who were trying to take the inebriated adolescents to the sobering-up center. They found themselves in a tight spot. They did not want to wait for the court's decision, especially since the elder had already been convicted once, while the younger was on probation with the militia. Therefore they decided it was necessary immediately to hide, because they could not expect leniency from the court. How could they leave the city? The best thing, they thought, was to have their own motorcycles. Then they remembered Naum Mikhaylovich's money.

Naum Mikhaylovich was due to depart for Moscow the next day. Tickets for the "Aurora" Leningrad to Moscow train were on the bookshelf, the suitcase was packed. The criminals climbed down from the roof of the apartment block to the balcony by rope. The sound of a breaking window, and they were in the apartment. There was a light on in the bedroom, so a steel bar went into action. Blows rained down on the old man. Frightened at what they had done, the criminals left, first seizing a bunch of keys. In the morning, light-hearted, they went back to the apartment. There they found savings books in Nemchenko's name and state loan bonds. Soon after, two freshly painted Yava motorcycles appeared in the yard. A day later, the criminals were arrested. A 19-year-old plumber and a 17-year-old vocational and technical school student were involved in the murder.

Where did the "reliable" information on the settling of political scores come from? I asked Nemchenko's widow, Galina Ivanovna Zakharinskaya, a teacher:

"I knew Naum Mikhaylovich," she says, "for more than 25 years. He never took an interest before in the so-called 'Jewish question.' But recently he became interested in studying the Hebrew language. In that way he got to know people who want to leave the USSR and so-called refuseniks. They are now taking a great interest in my misfortune."

Militia Colonel V.V. Gvozdev, section chief at the investigation directorate of the Leningrad Oblispolkom and Gorispolkom Main Administration of Internal Affairs, received a statement from citizens S.P. Frumkin and N.S. Demin. They raise the suggestion of revenge for Nemchenko by young people belonging to informal political groups. Leningrad City's Dzerzhinskiy Rayispolkom has received a request from them for a rally to be held in the Mikhaylovskiy Gardens by the Rossi Pavilion. People who did not know Nemchenko well and did not go to his funeral have decided to hold a rally "against anti-Semitism." I decided to find out more about one of the initiators of the rally in the Mikhaylovskiy Gardens.

"Senya," Semen Pinevich Frumkin introduced himself.

A former senior engineer and senior scientific staffer at the "Burevestnik" science and production association, it seems he has submitted a request for permission to leave for Israel.

What made Semen Pinevich describe the murder of Nemchenko as an act of anti-Semitism?

"I was simply shaken by Naum Mikhaylovich's death, I went on the subway, and there was an anti-Semitic slogan scratched on the door," Frumkin explains. "So I thought: Perhaps Nemchenko was not killed for money? I personally have never been subjected to persecutions."

So why did the refuseniks need to pass off an ordinary crime as an anti-Semitic act? The answer is clear: The day when they will leave our country is not far off, and against that day they have to collect as many political dividends as possible: "You see, we were struggling against anti-Semitism in the USSR." That sounds far more pleasing to the "masters" of ideological prose than the trivial "leaving to join his second cousin once removed."

Widespread Influenza Outbreak Reported

LD250827 Moscow TASS in English 0800 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Doctors have described the current winter outbreak of influenza in the Soviet Union as a creeping epidemic. The disease has been registered in Moscow, Alma-Ata, Tashkent, and several other big cities. Specialists warn that the disease is quite dangerous. There are serious complications and several persons have already died. Scores of millions of people have been vaccinated and a medicine, interferon, is widely used which increases the immunity of the human organism to the disease.

Poll Asks Student Attitudes Toward Stalin

LD241529 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1125 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow, 24 January (TASS)—The historical experience of building socialism accumulated by the CPSU is of great value in the course of restructuring in various spheres of life in the USSR. This is the opinion held by 9 out of every 10 students of the Academy of Social Sciences under the CPSU Central Committee in Moscow—who were polled by sociologists—as well as students of the higher party schools in Leningrad, Kiev, Alma-Ata, Gorkiy, and Saratov. More than 1,000 people were covered by the poll.

"Ninety-seven percent of the students noted that they need knowledge of the history of their native land to analyze modern social phenomena," Valeriy Shchegortsev, doctor of law, one of the organizers of the study, and an employee of the academy, told a TASS correspondent. "Only 8% regard their knowledge as sufficient. The rest are constantly striving to improve it. Especially great interest is being evoked in everyone about the period when the Soviet state was run by Josif Stalin. Historians still have a great deal of work to do on the study and interpretation of this historical stage."

To the question about personal attitudes to Stalin, 72% of those asked replied that, in their view, there were both positive and negative aspects to his activity. On the whole, 18% condemned the policy conducted by him, 3% appraised it positively, and the rest refrained from answering.

As far as the reasons for the personality cult are concerned, mentioned among the main ones were the excessive concentration of the mass media on him as a person as well as the political passiveness of the elected bodies of the party and state. The majority believes that, to avoid a recurrance of similiar situation, the working people must become more extensively involved in the administration of the state, and the collective nature of the leadership and the control of its activity from below must be stepped up. Today these tasks are being solved in the course of the restructuring that has been developing in the USSR.

Reader Challenges Academician's Views

AU220939 Kiev RADYANSKA UKRAINA in Ukrainian 17 Jan 88 p 2

[Letter to the editor by L. Akselrod, Odessa: "I Agree With the Academician, But Not Quite"]

[Excerpts] On 20 November 1987 your paper published an interview with Yu. Kondufor, member of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. The interview correctly pointed to the defective study of our country's history,

and noted shortcomings in the dissemination of historical knowledge. But, in my opinion, the academician passed over the true causes of this in silence. [passage omitted]

The academician "dialectically" evaluates some recently published works by A. Tvardovskiy, Yu. Trifonov, A. Rybakov, A. Akhmatova, and B. Mozhayev. He admits that, in some respects, these authors are ahead of historians, but immediately adds that a writer cannot be completely objective. After all, the writer's opinions are the opinions of one single person, and as such they are subjective; the writer, as a rule, is guided by emotions.

Is it so? Works by the aforesaid authors, as the academician admits, are selling like hot cakes. I can add: In public libraries, the waiting lists for these books are several months long. These books are neither detective novels, nor are their readers children. The readers are, for the most part, people who have lived in the times described in these books. Why, they themselves were participants in this history. In the books each of these readers finds something that touches upon their sentiments or thoughts.

I think that, when one refers to archival documents, they will not only confirm what Tvardovskiy, Rybakov, and others have written; history in documents dealing with the sacrifices made by our people through the fault of well-known historical persons will prove to be even more terrible and merciless. Moreover, in his interview the academician said that, for the most part, these works reflected negative phenomena. Indeed, they do. But what does it imply? After all, what "concerns" an ill organism is, above all, its illness. To get rid of an illness it is necessary to know its nature and causes perfectly well. This is what makes the works mentioned in the interview important.

We were participants in the heroic 5-year periods and in the terrible but victorious war against Hitlerite fascism. We were also eyewitnesses of stagnation in our economy and public life, of bureaucratic oppression, drunkenness, and of the breakdown of family life.... Historians should publish the names of those responsible for this stagnation, for infringements of the principles that govern the Soviet people's life.

The academician's opinion about V. Soloukhin's story, "Stefanida Ivanovna's Funeral," is surprising. Certainly, he has forgotten that our Constitution confirms the freedom of worship and of religion. This also applies to the funeral. V. Soloukhin's story distinctly shows the absurdity and bureaucratic obstacles which sometimes violate the constitutional rights of the Soviet people.

For the sake of glasnost, I request you to publish my opinion.

Readers Speak Out on Shatrov Play, Other Issues

PM201625 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian
16 Jan 88 p 2

[Unattributed feature: "What We Think!"]

[Excerpts] About R. Reagan's New Year Address to Soviet People [subhead]

Yu. Radyanskiy, editor, Kiev:

On the one hand, Reagan spoke of peace, cooperation, and reduction of nuclear arms. On the other hand, what is the worth of his hypocritical regret that mothers in the Soviet Union are weeping for their dead sons? Even though the President did not say where they had fallen, it is clear that he was talking about Afghanistan. He said it as if totally unaware that the dushmans are fighting with weapons delivered from the United States. The sooner these deliveries cease, the more quickly will Soviet troops be withdrawn from Afghanistan.

About M. Shatrov's Play "Onward... Onward... Onward!", ZNAMYA Issue No 1, 1988 [subhead]

I. Brazhnik, professor, Kiev:

The play is dedicated to people involved in the October Revolution, but the people who accomplished this revolution are absent from the author's narrative of events. Instead much space is allocated to Stalin's figure. Is it necessary to puff up details of his life, is it necessary to besmirch Vladimir Ilich's bright memory by emphasizing his close affinity or, as it was said earlier, his collaboration with Stalin?

A. Pavlov, worker, 36 years old, Moscow:

It is, to say the least, strange why historical science has hitherto failed to produce well-argued public statements on the most acute problems of our history since 1917.

For as long as the vanguard of Soviet historians does not substantiate an accurate concept of our recent past backed by publication of all factual sources without any exception, works like M. Shatrov's play will be treated as sensations.

The playwright was under no obligation to supply references to sources in his play. But this should have been done by the editorial board of the journal ZNAMYA by asking a competent specialist to write a commentary.

A. Novikov, professor, Leningrad:

This is the first attempt by a playwright to describe the past frankly, honestly, and without concealing tragic moments in our history. The author is far ahead of professional historians who have left us with quite a few

"blank spots." Some people may find the drama subjective. But an artist is entitled to his views. Especially since the author makes no claim of speaking the ultimate truth.

About the Elections to the USSR Academy of Sciences [subhead]

V. Zhukova, geological engineer, Novosibirsk:

The scant information about the results of the elections to the academy is not in line with the demands of glasnost. The mass readers are told just the names of scientists without indicating even their actual contribution to science, let alone mentioning the office they hold or the organizations where those elected work. Ordinary readers also know little about winners of State Prizes. It is sad and paradoxical, but the most extensive information about a scientist's service to society is contained in his obituary.... [passage omitted]

Sokolov on Adylov Ruling Uzbek 'Kingdom'
PM211730 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jan 88 p 13

[Vladimir Sokolov article: "Zone of Silence"—first two paragraphs are LITERATURNAYA GAZETA introduction]

[Text] "The Sleep of Reason Breeds Monsters"—that is the title Francisco Goya gave to his famous etching. This article describes what "the sleep of reason" can breed in our time, and what can be the consequences of scorn for the principles of democracy and glasnost.

The court will establish the extent of everyone's guilt and finally cast light on this black picture.

O my Virgil, my guide and narrator, lead me through the nine circles of "stagnation," through the smoke and ash of capital investments, take me to the deepest corners of human souls, through the hell which consumed the blessed land of Fergana beneath the sign of radiant slogans. Lead me, and I shall attempt to understand why it was that, on the day a Hero of Socialist Labor was arrested, thousands of ordinary people, none of them Heroes, spread carpets on the streets and highways, sang to the accompaniment of tambourines, danced around in circles, and celebrated all through the night until morning came...

But what is all this about a hell? After all, the "Nine Levels of Profitability," the "Levels of Happiness"—these are by no means the most exuberant headlines from newspaper features reminding the country that an agro-industrial association named for Lenin exists and flourishes in the Fergana Valley, that it is paternalistically led by the wise and understanding Akhmadzhan Adylov, and that scarcely anywhere do peasants live as well and as festively as they do under his management. (These works, unfortunately, also include a feature by D. Kalinovskaya in LITERATURNAYA GAZETA.)

Evidently inspired by the image of a Buddhist pagoda, the authors of the features invariably counted nine "levels of profitability"—from the water of the Syr-Darya River to the snows gleaming along the peaks of the Kuraminskiy Mountain Ridge. The exoticism of the Orient was beautifully intertwined with the economic poetry of innovations. As they described how fish splash about at the first level, how rice grows at the second, how cotton grows at the third, with fruit and grapes at the fourth, how cattle roam the pastures at the fifth, how sheep and lambs graze the pre-Alpine meadows at the sixth, how medicinal herbs flower and apiaries hum at the seventh, how down-producing Angora goats leap among the rocks at the eighth, and how yaks—which produce goodness knows what but are unique—graze among the snows at the ninth level, all these levels flowing with milk and honey spontaneously created a temple of universal happiness. Hallelujah for the temple's general director!

The temple also had another level. Underground. But not a single one of the psalmists mentioned it. Nobody knew how the "nine levels of profitability" turned into the nine circles of hell.

We climbed down the endless narrow staircase to the basement of the offices of the Pap PAPO—Production agro-industrial association. Dzhabbarali led the way, followed by an intermediary, without whom Dzhabbarali does not talk to strangers. Here, in Gurumsaray Village, people trust hardly anybody now.

The basement is divided into cells, each one closed off by a steel mesh door.

"Adylov ordered me: You're going to be a team leader," Dzhabbarali said and, for some reason, his dull eyes did not reflect the light from the small flashlight. "I refused because anyone who took on material responsibility here—whether as a cashier or a team leader—inevitably died 3-4 years later. They died of stomach complaints, in car accidents, or simply vanished... Then Adylov drove me to the office building. In his office, he put a knife to my head and said he would cut my head off since I was refusing to obey. I still refused. He then kicked me in the legs so hard that I fell down. The sovkhoz chief accountant and the chief of the cadres department were also in the office, they all started beating me up, and I lost consciousness. I came to a few days later, right here in this cell, lying on the floor. I couldn't get up, I couldn't open my eyes. My leg felt as if it was broken. Adylov's personal physician came, put it in a cast. Adylov himself also came later and ordered me to sign a document or he would have me killed right there and then. I signed."

I looked at his emaciated face.

"How many days were you locked up here?"

"Twenty-six."

Up at ground level, about 50 paces away, a silvered statue of Vladimir Ilich shines in Fergana's blinding sunlight. The statue shone, an ever-lengthening row of orders shone on the republic's banner as a symbol of successes in building socialism, and the Pap association, according to press claims, was forging a new model farm, new not only for Uzbekistan but also for the entire country. Meanwhile the naked and maimed Dzhabbarali, covered in blood and dirt, who had refused to be a team leader in the temple of happiness, was rolling on the earthen floor of the zindan—the traditional underground jail of the khans of the Orient—beneath the PAPO offices.

Up at ground level, Gurumsaray's plane trees rustled in the wind which caressed them and tiptoed away into the cotton fields and vineyards, where thousands of peasants pleased photo reporters and documentary moviemakers with pictures of happiness at work, but none of the peasants could recall what it was like to have a day off, let alone go on vacation. Away from the correspondents' path, that same gentle breeze blew over the apotheosis of punitive labor: Hundreds of people building endless and pointless stone walls in the steppe.

One of those hundreds, a former sovkhoz cashier, described how he failed to promptly perform one of Adylov's orders—he was late delivering foodstuffs to his dacha—and how Adylov assigned him to hard labor on the construction of a cavern, where the cashier worked for almost 1 year. As is proper, proceedings were instituted in his "case." The investigation brought 2,000 such "cases" to light—they had managed to destroy the rest...

The construction of the cavern—which was done by "miscreant" cashiers, irrigation specialists, workers, sovkhoz directors, or simply disliked people—continued for years right in the backyard of the PAPO offices, and even so did not in the least tarnish the image of the "new model farm." A 12-meter deep trench, running toward the Syr-Darya River, was dug there using spades and hoes. A ferroconcrete tunnel, wide enough to take two cars side by side, was built by hand inside the trench. One branch of the tunnel leads to the offices, to the shaft of a drive-in elevator, the other branch merges into a gigantic cavern in no way inferior to subway stations. A system of passages provides direct underground links between Gurumsaray's administrative buildings. How much money was wasted on this pointless construction project? And why? It is impossible to explain from the viewpoint of common sense.

Those "sentenced" by Adylov's one-man kangaroo court worked there to breaking point for 12-15 hours a day, and there were up to 1,000 such people working on the site at times. Why? Since the fields and stock units were always short of people, why waste labor to no purpose? There is no answer.

Inside these caverns, I suddenly felt that I had found myself in some looking-glass world where our world's logic and common sense do not operate, where everything is subordinated to some special "topsy-turvy" law, and where there may even be no laws at all. But you climb up to the surface and you see the sky, the wind, and the slogans, and in the distance the militia uniform cap worn by Captain Validzhan Mazhnunov, who now firmly ensures here the law and order which apparently nobody ever rescinded.

After some time in the zindan, Dzhabbarali mustered his strength and escaped at the first available opportunity. He walked through the fields the whole night through (on crutches!) and by morning reached his native village of Pungan, where his family no longer expected to see him alive. But it was not so easy to escape from Adylov. The piece of paper which Dzhabbarali had signed on pain of death was a "voluntary pledge" to take on and rear 200 sovkhoz goats, and it provided grounds for accusing Dzhabbarali of stealing goats which were already dead, and for his subsequent arrest and sentencing to 7 years' imprisonment with confiscation of property. You cannot refuse to become team leader, still less flee.

The last words he heard Adylov say were: Keep your mouth shut in jail, otherwise you won't come out alive! Dzhabbarali went to jail where he kept his mouth shut for 7 years, while sovkhoz director Akhmadzhan Adylov was promoted to the position of general director of the sovkhoz association named for Lenin, which was set up specially for him, and started delivering speeches about successes at even higher forums than ever before; no one hissed him off the rostrum—on the contrary, he was sent off to the accompaniment of tumultuous applause.

Naturally—Adylov was transforming the land! In the epoch of the Baykal-Amur Main Railway, the "Atommash," and other construction sites of socialism, what was important was not so much an association's actual productivity but the photogenic appearance of long columns of dumper trucks and lines of excavators, the background of dust and smoke highlighting the panorama of the conquest of nature. If nothing else, Adylov was skilled at conquering. Fertile soil was cut from the banks of the Syr-Darya River and transported to cover the dry pebbles of the foothills—this was how new cotton fields came into being. Mountain gorges were transformed into water reservoirs, from which water was to be piped to irrigate these fields. The scale, the volume, the scope! What did the obstinate Dzhabbarali's fate matter? Furthermore he, being obstinate, might have said that the pebbles would not retain water and that anyhow there was not enough water in the mountains for such large areas, he might even have refused to do pointless work—he's better off in jail. Others would be less obstinate.

This was more or less what happened. Dead fields now lie in the foothills, with uninhabited but luxurious field camps and the wind whistling through dry irrigation

pipes. Yet more and more millions of rubles were allocated for Adylov's projects, more funds for equipment and other economic resources in short supply. Let him build the kingdom of progress!

As befits a kingdom, it began with a line of outposts manned by observers around the clock. Any car with a suspicious license plate entering the PAPO territory was reported to the nearest State Automobile Inspectorate station, where the car was halted for what appeared to be a routine inspection of documents to ascertain who was traveling where and why.

All approaches to the kingdom's capital, Gurumsaray, were blocked off by permanently guarded barriers. Barriers also blocked off streets inside the settlement, with yet another circle of barriers surrounding the offices. Nobody visited people in Gurumsaray. Any stranger noticed in the settlement immediately found himself doing hard labor, enabling him to satisfy his curiosity for several months running. Never mind guests, the natives of Gurumsaray themselves were afraid to walk the streets in case Adylov caught sight of them and sentenced them to penal servitude as idlers. Peasants crept to work in the fields through their gardens...

The autocrat behaved with the dignity of a born sovereign. His favorite spot was a granite podium by the fountain, beneath a shady plane tree, on which stood his desk with numerous telephones, one of them a direct line to [former Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee First Secretary and Politburo Candidate Member] Rashidov. The sovereign faced a pedestal, prepared farsightedly in good time for his own bust to be placed there after the second Gold Star promised by Rashidov; behind him stood a statue of Lenin, his right hand seemingly blessing the sovereign and his deeds. It was here, in the open air, that Adylov loved to hold conferences, it was here that he gave instructions and carpeted people, and when the mood took him he would tan his subjects' hide with his whip. It was here that captured strangers would be brought, and it was here, beneath the shadow of Lenin's right hand and for all the ordinary people to see, that icy water would be poured down the stranger's collar (this interrogation method was known as "karbyshevka") until he confessed who had sent him there and why...

Thus the sovereign ruled his many thousands of people in the name of Soviet power.

He also lived on a grand scale. A house with a dozen rooms, a spacious yard, and its own boilerhouse was for his family. He personally used as his home the office building with a dispensary on the third floor and the zindan in the basement, a dacha in the heavenly garden in the office yard just beyond the trench, and a stable beyond the garden where he loved to spend the evenings among the beautiful horses, sipping Napoleon brandy. He also had about 15 more dachas outside Gurumsaray, all of them in the most picturesque corners of the association's territory, and all of them surrounded by barriers and guarded so that he could could have a proper night's rest wherever he might find himself at nightfall. Anywhere the sovereign traveled, he was accompanied by a bus fitted with a kitchen staffed by spotlessly clean chefs and carrying baby lambs bleating in a special compartment.

(Adylov used to boast: "Boy, have I lived it up!", and he would rub his thick neck. "I've had everything!")

It would be long and boring to describe everything. A young girl would catch his eye, for example, she would then find herself in his bed, this would be followed by a little show with bodyguards and associates eagerly playing up to the master, and then the victim would find herself married to the village idiot or someone else especially invited to "visit" the generous sovereign. There were also some more durable liaisons, mistresses with children and their own homes, with special funds allocated for their maintenance.

Fair enough—women, violence...but what about matters spiritual? The sovereign evidently did not read books, and as for newspapers—only when they mentioned him. But what was Adylov's attitude toward art? After all, he had vast sums of money, he could have invested some in, for example, a collection of paintings? "Most certainly!" my guide exclaimed—not having lost his sense of humor after 2 years in Gurumsaray—and led me to the basement of the settlement's tiny museum (I have never before in my life visited so many basements), where a painting, framed behind glass, leaned against the wall. Just one. Bringing it into the light from the air vent, he read out: "L.I. Brezhnev Presents the Order of Friendship of Peoples to the Uzbek SSR. Oil on canvas."

Yes, this painting satisfied the general director's spiritual requirements once and for all time. I peered through the dark glass, behind which I could see the amazingly elegant figures of the participants in this historic event. Rashidov applauding elegantly, with Adylov on his right, equally elegant, wearing the local embroidered skull cap. All of them looking very athletic, youthful, tall...Further on, there was a crowd of applauding nomenklatura officials and, putting his finger against the glass, my Virgil told me their names, adding after each one: Fired, arrested, in jail.

On the other side of the dark glass, as if through a magic mirror, one could see the world of awards and applause, a world where top leaders stand tall, pure, and wonderful like celestial beings. On this side was the basement and my guide with his merciless finger...

While the painting was still hanging upstairs, in the tiny museum's single room, it was mandatory viewing for all residents of the PAPO so that they could realize what elevated circles had blessed Adylov's power over them.

People viewed it. They saw that same looking-glass world that they saw on their television screens and newspaper pages, a world alien to truth and consecrating evil.

People knew that neither justice nor protection were to be found beyond the looking glass. After all, many a desperate individual had already escaped the PAPO and the republic and had managed to take their complaints to high offices. They were placated and advised to return and not to worry about anything—measures would certainly be taken. The petitioners would return. Their complaints would invariably take the track leading to Rashidov's office, where they would be swept underneath the carpet forever. As for the petitioners, after a decorous period of time, they would vanish into jail or simply vanish, and people would draw their own conclusions about what had happened.

There were exceptions, however. Teacher Amindzhanov, graduate of the Moscow State University, did not bend or vanish in his struggle against Adylov, but continued to struggle even when he landed up in court, and it seems that the enemy was so terrified of him that Adylov banned residents of Gurumsaray from attending the trial and hearing what Amindzhanov would have to say about him; anyone who disobeyed was beaten up. Or take Rakhmanov, an instructor from the Namangan Party Obkom—after clashing with Adylov, he was expelled from the party by Rashidov personally and spent several years working as a fitter, but continued his struggle, and even an assassination attempt failed to stop him. People face-to-face with death—but they endured, they remained people.

But what was Adylov like? A demon, the evil genius of Gurumsaray, an agro-industrial Bonaparte? What does one have to be to accumulate such vast power and earn so many honors? To set up what was in effect his own small sovereign state?

People say that he is extraordinary, quick on the uptake of course, but at the same time amazingly narrow-minded. He displayed enviable energy and will in business but, ever since his youth, strove to gain personal advantage from all business, and everything that he did was a logical consequence of his way of thinking and acting. In the late thirties his father was deservedly sentenced—for associating with the Kurbashi during the Basmachi times—and died in prison. There can be no doubt that Akhmadzhan Adylov and his brothers bore a grudge against the Soviet power on their father's account.

He started work first as a manual field laborer and later as a tractor driver. He climbed the first step of the career ladder with the help of an anonymous letter—he "overthrew" the kolkhoz bookkeeper and promoted himself to that position. Subsequent experience convinced him that slander was a convenient way to create a vacancy in any suitable position, and he thus became chairman. Starting at kolkhoz level, Adylov's activity as anonymous letter writer later extended to rayon and oblast level, and later still—when he had struck up a friendship with Rashidov—his anonymous letters were targeted against cadres all over the republic.

Since work of this sort cannot be performed without help, Adylov set up a unique apparatus which gathered information for him about all eminent people in the republic and, whenever the need arose, mixed truth and slander and fired off a series of "unsigned letters" to various offices, which was sufficient to ensure the dismissal of even the highest official.

Consequently, Adylov's influence became so great that there were occasions when candidates for ministerial office made their way to Gurumsaray "for consultations." They were likely to spend days in the waiting room.

Even worldly-wise people were at first shocked by the scale on which torture was committed here—in our time, in the Land of the Soviets...It was as if they had been given a terrifying taste of the Middle Ages. There are some cases of shocking cruelty. On one occasion the chairman of the Oblast People's Control Committee hinted that he would not obey orders and he was most brutally beaten up by Akhmadzhan, his brother Mukhsin, and... the party raykom first secretary, who was present at the time (and who consequently died, by the way, in mysterious circumstances). They kicked the unfortunate with their boots until their feet hurt, and the Adylov sat on his chest and started running a knife across his throat, saying that a traitor's head is better cut off right away.

Such things are, of course, impossible in a healthy climate, but Adylov had trampled down all rayon and oblast authorities. Militia staffers were given assignments by him, and if they were not performed he would beat them up or have them dismissed from office. But never mind the militia, he actually "overthrew" an obkom secretary whom he disliked and openly threatened his successor with violence!

One part of the answer is this: Impunity. Here is another. When the brother of the Oblast People's Control Committee chairman asked Adylov why had treated his brother in this fashion, Adylov explained that his roots go back to... Tamerlane, who was famous for his cruelty. He managed to reconcile the story about "noble origins" with party membership—he perceived his right to exercise power primarily as a natural right. He apparently believed he was simply making a concession to the time by investing this natural right with Soviet attributes—the offices of deputy, director, and so on—and never set any official limits to his power. Having absolutely no doubts of his own abilities to resolve state matters, shortly before his arrest he was discussing with his associates who should be appointed minister of internal

affairs and who ought to be republican prosecutor, and even earlier felt so powerful as to threaten to "overthrow" Rashidov himself if need be.

This threat was no idle boast: He was one of the most "powerful" people in the republic with his own vast data bank, his own apparatus of repression, and—and this is the main point—vast sums to pay any bribes.

The economy was Adylov's main sphere of activity. An energetic economic manager, he had opportunities to steal resources from all over the republic. No matter which aspect of the PAPO farm's operations was looked at by investigators, everything was literally steeped in crime. Up to one-half of capital investments were embezzled! That ran into millions of rubles. Of course, part of the embezzled amount was returned, by way of thanks, to those who allocated resources to Adylov and guaranteed his impunity.

The amounts lost somewhere inside the PAPO are far greater than anything that has emerged in connection with the "cotton cases" or obkom-level bribetakers like Karimov. What has been confiscated from his agents is small change for him, a trivial matter of a few hundred thousand rubles.

...I recall the home of Bazarbay, totally indistinguishable from any other home in Tepakurgan Village. I looked inside almost by chance. I saw a room with a small stove, furnished with a low table surrounded by sheepskin cushions used both as seating and as bedding. A dim "Rassvet" television set in a corner. The family's assets consist of a cow and a bicycle. Their clothes are what they are wearing. Bazarbay's mother, a half-deaf woman already old at 57 years, sits on the floor by the window looking at the street. Even he himself looks far older than his 26 years, and his wife Makhsuda seems to have withered without ever flowering.

How much do you earn, carpenter Bazarbay? R120 in a good month, maybe R50 in a bad one. Your wife? R90, sometimes R100, the wife earns well. Mother also receives a pension. How much is that? R40.

Adylov could hardly be expected to remember Bazarbay, just as people never remember an ant they happened to step on. But Bazarbay will remember until his dying day how his father returned beaten up from the offices, and how he suffered for years on end after a blow on the head with the director's paperweight, until he died, sadly known as the village idiot. Died at the age of 54! Bazarbay will also remember for a long time how, in one hard year in order to fulfill the plan, the wheat in their backyard was cut on Adylov's orders and the family was left to starve. Bazarbay will also remember how, just a few days after their wedding, Adylov's people dragged him and his young wife from their home at dawn one morning and took them to the offices, where Adylov whipped the newlyweds in front of each other as punishment for "not reporting for field work"—is this not why Makhsuda has had no children? Bazarbay will hardly forget how he accidentally came into Adylov's sight and he, considering that Bazarbay's hair was indecently long, used a knife to cut off a tuft of hair together with the skin, so blood poured down his face.

It is only in fairytales that treasures are found inside the cave of Sesame. Millions were iniquitously seized—R1, R10, or R100 at a time—from Bazarbay and over 30,000 of his fellow countrymen. To prevent them grumbling and make sure that they really put their backs into work, they got the directorial paperweight on their heads, it was knives and lashes for them!

Oh, fellow countrymen of mine...

My friend and guide, a man from Voronezh, even gave vent to his amazement: What did you put up with, brothers? He used branding irons on you, he whipped pregnant women—and you kept silent! He ordered old men to pass before him in veneration, as if before a deity—and they did, crossing their hand over their chests. He demanded that he be addressed as "Allah Akhbar"—and they sacrilegiously did!

People in Gurumsaray could have had all sorts of reasons, and now it is hard for us outsiders to pass judgment on them. We all will have do a lot of work to entomb forever in the basements, behind tinted glass and looking glasses, the medieval apparatus with khans wearing top-quality English three-piece suits and Soviet orders, with their bodyguards riding around in "Zhiguli" cars, with general directors lording it over slave workers, and to ensure that the Fergana sun always shines on deputies who are true servants of the people, Central Committee members who are the most honest of Communists, and Heroes of Socialist Labor who are ordinary working people.

At long last, August 1984 dawned over Gurumsaray! During this month, strong winds blow all night long to chase the heat of summer away from the valley, torrential rain falls at dawn, and the gentle, fruitful fall comes to Fergana.

Adylov knew that he would be arrested but did not attempt to escape. He may not even have really believed it possible. Where could he have escaped? It was only here that he could be Adylov, he had no wish to live in any other style. But he did take certain measures. The most valuable of some 50 purebred racehorses disappeared from the stable, each worth a few tens of thousands, while treasures undreamed of even by Ali Baba were hidden in the earth somewhere in the vast spaces of the PAPO.

Peacocks and gazelles roamed the gardens of paradise, birds of paradise pecked on the fruits of paradise, a lion roared in his cage, and choice fish swam about in the ponds. In nearby Namangan, Republican Prosecutor A. Buturlin finalized the last details of the operation. Some

of the former Central Committee secretaries (actually those who are now also under investigation) advised him not to be in a hurry to make the arrest, but the prosecutor had made his decision.

The arresting party rushed into the garden from all sides, but the bullet-proof vests were not needed. The sovereign was not surprised. He was driven—handcuffed, in a car with all lights blazing, in a motorcade of patrol vehicles with sirens screaming—along the deserted highway to the airport...

The barriers in Gurumsaray were left open. For the first time in devil knows how many years, people in Gurumsaray poured out into the streets.

They have already celebrated three anniversaries, but the fact that people in Gurumsaray have started talking is far more important than any celebrations. Overcoming their fear of any remaining "Adylovites" (Oh, how many lackeys were reared by the sovereign!) and disregarding the habit of not washing dirty linen in public, people are reaching for the truth.

The investigation of this unprecedented case is already in its 4th year. B.Ye. Sviderskiy, senior investigator for particularly important cases under the USSR prosecutor general, is in charge of the case. I have no doubt the specialists transferred here from all over the union will completely unravel the monstrous tangle. I have no doubt that, at the proper time, the court will fully study and assess the evidence, will determine the extent of everyone's guilt, and will pass a fair sentence. Maybe it would not have been worth describing Gurumsaray's nightmares before the court's verdict were it not for the recent arrest of... Adylov's successor as director of the sovkhoz named for Lenin. Why? For false reporting, for abuse of office, for beating up the chief engineer! All this after only 18 months in office, literally before the very eyes of the investigating group from the union Prosecutor's Office!

This incident, coupled with persistent rumors that Adylov will once more wriggle free, convincingly indicates that publication of this story must not be delayed by even a single day, that an explanation of events must not be delayed by even a single day, because every day that passes may cost someone his life.

A monstrous homunculus grew and gathered strength for 15 years in the Fergana glass jar, floating in the nourishing broth of stagnation. What was being built in the PAPO in the guise of socialism but instead of socialism?

Of course, neither anonymous letters nor trappings of office would have helped Adylov to gain absolute power had not other people had an interest in his "absolutism"—and primarily at republican level. But they needed people like Adylov—they needed people capable of playing a double game, wheeler-dealers who would enrich themselves and the powers that be. Many people found the ideology of the looking glass world convenient, with its reversal of time back "to Tamerlane," with its werewolves and its cult of total license. But why did our society's protective institutions not only fail to prevent the slanderer making his way to power, but themselves readily turn into tools for the enslavement of working people? Why did an unknown multitude of good, honest, and talented people, genuine Communists, find themselves trampled at the base of the pyramid while Tamerlane's "descendant" scrambled all the way to its top? Until we can explain this, we are not protected against a recurrence of the calamity.

[At the foot of this article, LITERATURNAYA GAZETA carries two photographs credited to L. Zagalskiy, each 7 inches by 4.5 inches, one showing an elaborate and fanciful cluster of buildings, the other showing a group of people in front of an opening leading underground. The caption reads: "This is the appearance of 'above' and 'below' in Adylov's ideas of state hierarchy: On the left—a pavilion on the border of his estates, built especially for meetings with Rashidov. In addition to this pavilion, the Gurumsaray gardens had a special 'Rashidov Avenue,' along which the host and the Distinguished Visitor strolled and probably discussed Uzbekistan's future. On the right—the entrance to the 'bunker,' to the underground galleries and the zindan"]

Economic

'Changes for Better' in Plan Fulfillment

PM231559 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Jan 88 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report under the headline "At the USSR Council of Ministers"]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jan (TASS)—A USSR Council of Ministers session took place today in which the results of fulfilling the state plan for the economic and social development of the USSR and the USSR state budget for 1987 were discussed. The economic situation in the country was examined and the tasks were determined for the fulfillment of the 1988 plan and budget.

The session noted that changes for the better have begun to occur in the country's economic situation as a result of the intense labor of the Soviet people regarding the fulfilment of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress; the practical implementation of the party's strategic policy aimed at intensifying socio-economic development; the realization of the directives of the CPSU Central Committee January and June (1987) Plenums on the democratization of all spheres of the life of society; and the implementation of a radical economic reform.

Assessing the results of the development of the economy in the first stage of the restructuring being carried out in the country, the USSR Council of Ministers stresses that in the 2 years of the 5-year plan an increase in industrial production, as envisaged in the plan, amounted to 8.9%.

Agriculture, in particular livestock breeding, is getting onto the path of stable development. The annual gross harvest of grain has exceeded 210 million tonnes, which is 17% more than in the years of the 11th 5-Year Plan. The average annual volume of meat production has grown by 13%, and that of milk by 8.7%. The part played by intensive factors in the growth of public sector production has grown. The tasks for raising labor productivity have been overfulfilled in all sectors of the national economy. Progressive changes have occurred in the technical standard and in the renewal of output. There has been a concentration of efforts and resources on the re-tooling of the production potential. The proportion of capital investment which has gone toward the technical retooling and reconstruction of operating enterprises has risen to 46%, as against 39% in 1985.

The policy of reinforcing the social orientation of economic development was pursued singlemindedly. In comparison with 1985 there was a 15% increase in 1987 in the number of residential buildings commissioned; 16% more preschool establishments; 17% more hospitals; 27% more general education schools; 34% more polyclinics; 65% more vocational technical schools; and 72% more clubs and cultural centers. Over 2 years the average monthly pay of industrial and office workers rose by 5.9%, and wages of kolkhoz workers by 8.9%. There was an increase in the retail goods turnover in the state and cooperative retail sectors. Real personal incomes rose.

The gross national product, which reflects the final results in both the productive and nonproductive spheres of activity, increase by 8% compared to 1985.

In 1987, during widespread socialist competition to usher in the 70th anniversary of Great October in a worthy fashion, there was a considerable increase in the workers' creative activity. For the first time in many years an entire production growth was achieved without an increase in the number of people employed in the industries within the material sphere. The growth rate for industrial output was 3.8%, which is in line with the plan. Positive results were achieved in the industries of the fuel-power and metallurgical complexes. A number of measures were implemented to intensify scientific and technical progress, and the introduction of the state acceptance service had a positive effect on raising output quality. The volume of state capital investment increased by 5%.

Measures to improve the economic management mechanism are starting to produce more and more weighty results. Some 2,500 industrial associations and enterprises have been transferred to conditions of full economic accountability [khozyaystvennyy raschet] and self-financing. They have higher indicators for production activity than does industry as a whole.

At the same time, the session noted that no substantial advance has yet been achieved in a number of areas of social and economic development. The target increase in national income generated has been underfulfilled; over 2 years it has increased by 6.5% as against a plan of 8.2%. This was determined above all by a slow decline in the materials intensiveness of public sector production, by a reduction in returns from foreign trade, and by an insufficiently active change in the structure and increase in the volume of consumer goods production. In 1987, an underfulfilment by R13 billion of the target for increasing national income limited the possibility of accelerating production and social development in the country.

The situation in the area of finances remains tense, mainly because of the presence of a large number of loss-making enterprises, [word indistinct] and still considerable unproductive expenditures and losses in the national economy, which are still considerable. Technical progress has not yet become a decisive factor in the intensification of public sector production and the saving of resources has not yet become the main source of providing for further growth of production volumes and a standard of economic life. The power intensity of national income increased last year by 0.9% instead of decreasing by 1.8% as planned, while its metal consumption [metalloyemkost] decreased by only 1.8% instead of the planned 4.3%. Material expenditures in agriculture have increased.

Having comprehensively examined the country's economic situation and the results of work in 1987, the USSR Government noted in particular that positive changes in the economy have not yet become stable. A fall in production was allowed in the first months of last year caused by omissions in organizational and economic activity, and by the weak preparation of a number of USSR ministries and departments, of Union Republics Councils of Ministers, associations, enterprises, and organizations, for work under the new conditions. As a result of measures taken, however, the situation improved by the beginning of the second half of the year and in general, industry caught up with the pace of the year's plan, although considerable losses have been suffered.

In this regard the USSR Council of Ministers concentrated attention upon an analysis of the state of affairs in parts of public sector production which are lagging behind, and on working out specific measures to raise the effectiveness of the work of the national economy complexes and their individual branches.

It was noted that despite some recent improvement in the work of the machine building complex, the overall state of affairs in the machine building industries has not been corrected. Output of production rose here by 4.6 % against 6% according to the plan. The greatest shortfall has been brought about by the USSR Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry; the USSR Ministry of Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances; and the USSR Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machine Building.

Poor use is being made of reserves at enterprises of the chemical, timber, wood processing, and pulp and paper industry with a view to more fully satisfying the requirements of the national economy for output by these industries.

Radical changes for the better have not been ensured in capital construction. The annual plan for the commissioning of fixed assets has been fulfilled by only 92%; instances of irregular production in building and of poor quality work are still numerous.

In the agro-industrial complexes of a number of republics there has been a fall in the total volume of gross agricultural output and there has been a reduction in the production of potatoes, fruit and vegetable output, and raw cotton. Serious shortcomings continue to occur in organizing the transportation, processing, and storage of agricultural raw materials. The number of loss making farms has risen.

While the overall transportation plan has been fulfilled, a number of railways and shipping lines have not coped with targets for the transportation of goods, especially to the eastern regions of the country. Safety during rail transportation is not being ensured at the proper level.

The USSR Council of Ministers identified specific areas for improvement in the work of the major links in the machine building, chemical-timber, building, and agro-industrial complexes, and the transport industries. Measures have also been charted for ensuring the more reliable operation of the electric power engineering sector and the gasoline, gas, and coal industries.

Taking into account the strained financial state of many enterprises and organizations, the USSR ministries and departments and Union Republic Councils of Ministers have been instructed on the need to take immediate measures to improve economic work, to reduce the number of lossmaking enterprises, and to create the necessary conditions for introducing full economic accountability and self-financing.

The USSR Council of Ministers noted that the level of contractual discipline continues to remain low. There has been a shortfall worth more than R12 billion in output supplied to consumers, above all in the output of the machine building and chemical-timber complexes. This, of course, could not fail to take its toll on the stability of the operation of the entire national economy and many labor collectives. The USSR Government demanded that leaders of ministries and departments ensure order and discipline are established in industry, and arrange things in such a way that the fulfillment of contractual obligations is a task of primary importance in every collective.

The members of the USSR Government paid great attention to questions of implementing the social policy drawn up by the 27th CPSU Congress.

Much was done in this area last year. At the same time, difficulties remain in meeting the demand for consumer goods and services backed by the purchasing power of the population. There was criticism at the session of the work of a number of USSR ministries and departments and of the Union Republics Councils of Ministers in providing for the social needs of the population. It was noted that the USSR Ministry of the Communications Equipment Industry, the USSR Ministry of the Chemical Industry, the USSR Ministry of the Radio Industry, the USSR Ministry of the Electrotechnical Industry, the USSR Ministry of Agricultural Machinery, the USSR Ministry of the Machine Tool Industry, certain other ministries and departments, and the Uzbek SSR, Azerbaijan SSR, and Tajik SSR Councils of Ministers failed to fulfill the plan for the production of industrial consumer goods. The USSR Ministry of Light Industry has not fulfilled the target of the annual plan, failing to deliver R1 billion worth of products to consumers.

There have been serious ommissions in the activity of the USSR Ministry of Trade, the Central Union of Consumers' Cooperations, and the Councils of Ministers of a series of union republics, which are not implementing the necessary measures for utilizing local sources for increasing the production of food and other goods. All this has led to a continuing shortage of many types of goods and services, to shortcomings in balancing the monetary income and expenditure of the population, and also in satisfying the growing needs of the Soviet people. The USSR Council of Ministers demanded that USSR ministries and departments and the Union Republic Councils of Ministers take effective measures to fundamentally change the state of affairs on this issue.

The USSR Government makes it incumbent upon the Union Republic Councils of Ministers and the USSR ministries and departments to place under special control issues regarding the strengthening of the material base of the social-cultural sphere; the quest for reserves for the construction of social amenities, primarily in residential buildings; and the elimination of serious shortcomings in municipal and domestic services and passenger transport.

The task is set of developing more energetically, and making wider use for these purposes of the forms of cooperative and individual labor activity.

When defining the tasks for fulfilling the plan and budget for 1988, the USSR Government pointed to the need to ensure in the current year the kind of economic growth rates which would exceed the average annual rates for the 12th 5-Year Plan, and strive to ensure the stable and rhythmic operation of associations and enterprises and thereby create opportunities for the successful fulfillment of the 5-year plan as a whole.

All organizational work must be conducted on the basis of ensuring a large-scale switch of associations and enterprises to the principles of full economic accountability, self-financing, and self-management, the enhancement of their independence and enterprising nature, and the maximum utilization for these purposes of the conditions created in connection with the entry into force of the USSR Law on the State Enterprise (Association). It is essential to ensure that the requirements of this law are

strictly fulfilled with the maximum effect so economic methods of management may be resolutely and firmly established in practice. Taking into account that 60% of industrial output must be produced by associations and enterprises which ;have been transferred to the new conditions of economic activity as of the beginning of the current year, special emphasis was placed on the exceptional importance of the efficient conduct of all this work in the relevant sectors and labor collectives.

The USSR Council of Ministers demanded that the USSR ministries and departments and the union republics councils of ministers launch active practical work in the labor collectives of associations and enterprises to mobilize their efforts for ensuring the dynamic development of all sectors of production and efficient work from the very beginning of the year so as to greet the 19th All-Union CPSU Conferenced with lofty labor achievements.

Taking part in the work of the USSR Council of Ministers session were V.I. Vorotnikov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and RSFSR Council of Ministers chairman; N.N. Slyunkov, CPSU Central committee Politburo member and CPSU Central Committee secretary; and N.V. Talyzin, CPSU Central Committee Politvuro candidate member and USSR Council of Ministers first deputy chairman.

N.I. Ryzhkov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR Council of Ministers chairman addressed the session.

Law Hopes To Curb Managerial 'Ineptitude'

PM211841 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 8 Jan 88 First Edition p 1

[Vladimir Shilov article under the rubric "Our Dialogue": "Democracy on the Managerial Ladder"]

[Text] The first working week of January, which saw the entry into force of the Law on the State Enterprise (Association), is ending. As of now the majority of labor collectives are working according to the rules of full economic accountability [khozyaystvennyy raschet], in conditions of self-financing and self-capitalization. Many difficulties and contradictions still remain in the way of the new management methods, as is typical characteristic of any transition period. An imbalance between production plans and material-technical supply. Unsound economic normatives. Overestimates and underestimates in drawing up state orders. Gaps in the price formation system. A considerable number of unprofitable production facilities. These and other shortcomings exist to varying degrees in every sector—and this is evidenced by readers' letters and our correspondents' reports.

Without in any way belittling the significance of each of the aforementioned production and economic problems, I would like to consider how to speed up the elimination of residual phenomena from the past in the economy. In this connection I believe the most common and topical problem in carrying out economic restructuring is the shaping of fundamentally different managerial ethics and the inculcation of a new, democratic standard of business relations. How have they been shaped to the present time? Decisions have been taken in the ministry, orders and instructions have been issued, and production collectives have been mainly allotted the role of unquestioning executors. All errors, disruptions, and failures were put down to objective causes and shortcomings in executive efficiency. Essentially the apparatus of the ministries and departments was beyond criticism from below in all circumstances. Now the practice of unrestrained, excessive administration and unthinking execution has been wiped out by law. The long-standing conviction, however, that "things are more visible to us from above" has become so ingrained in the managerial mentality that it is one of the most serious obstacles to implementing radical economic reform. Even prestigious directors such as Ivanovo machine tool builder B.P. Kabaidze are helpless in the face of ministerial diktat. So much "state order" has been imposed on the enterprise he leads that there remains not even a whiff of economically accountable independence. Departmental despotism, which contradicts fundamental party guidelines, is provoking increasingly resolute protest from plant economic leaders.

The leitmotiv of "roundtable" conversations at the editorial office, meetings at enterprises, and sociological opinion polls is protest against the administrative peremptoriness which turns normatives into directives and state orders into allocations. At times the proclaimed economically accountable independence of enterprises seems to be simply an irrevelant declaration. "Why are we not consulted? Why are we not listened to? Why are the ministry economists reluctant to investigate our circumstances?", our plant collocutors inquire with one voice. Indeed: Why are questions vitally important for the labor collective decided without its participation, behind its back, in remote offices? "We cannot be governed by exclusively group interests. Our task is to proceed from national economic needs and requirements": These are the reasons given by departmental apparatus personnel for their stance. But surely the one should not be opposed to the other. Often bureaucratic craftiness is concealed in official-departmental logic: While recording on paper their own concern for state needs, ministry apparatus personnel do not take the trouble to link these needs to specific production potential. Last fall strict directives from sector staffs could be seen at a number of Kuybyshev enterprises: "With a view to overcoming the lag in the fulfillment of the state plan, an additional target is being set for you for the production of...." It is not difficult to imagine how such "additional targets" come about. The shortfall permitted by the laggards is quite simply allocated to the more stable collectives, without any consideration as to their economic production burden.

The custom of mimicking managerial zeal by allocating various kinds of additional targets is incompatible with economic accountability and is rejected by the Law on

the State Enterprise. But, life being what it is, situations do arise whereby there is an urgent need to rapidly increase the output of a particular product. How should people act in such situations? Draw up a strict directive? That method has been declared illegal. So what can be done legally? The solution is exclusively democratic. A group of senior ministry personnel come to the plant, the labor collective council meets, and a deputy minister states the request for help. As a result of negotiation the collective finds itself able to take on an additional order on contract terms advantageous to it, to be fulfilled for instance by voluntary job contract teams outside the enterprise's working hours. Of course, it is easier to order than to persuade and come to an agreement. But we also know something else: People are more willing and better able to fulfill decisions that they make themselves. The Law on the State Enterprise provides the opportunity.

Readers' mail and observations from life suggest an interesting development of the topic. While persistently advocating the democratization of mutual relations at ministry-enterprise level, by no means all plant economic leaders are themselves abandoning the customary administrative methods when it comes to internal plant questions. Here is a letter from workers at No 113 Bridge Detachment in Naberezhnye Chelny:

"On arriving at work on Monday, we discovered an order on the bulletin board. We read it and were astonished: Everybody had been demoted in their professional grading. Of course, we wanted to know why and on what basis. The party organization replied that it had not taken part in this matter and knew nothing. The chief of the labor and wages section was unwilling to explain. The management kept silent..."

It must be said that many such letters are received. As is known, wage restructuring is being carried out with a view to implementing more accurately the main principle of social justice: to each according to his labor. The questions are complex, touching the interests of millions of people. Consequently substantiation, frankness [otkrytost], and openness are particularly necessary here. This is where team, sector, and shop councils must take part without fail! They should have the deciding word. But no! There is a kind of bureaucratic secretiveness which exasperates the workers. In striving to avoid pointed, open explanations with people, the plant management provides pretexts for false rumors, emotional reactions, and indignation. Sometimes these clumsy tactics end in acute conflicts, as happened at the Yaroslavl Motor Plant. There, a dispute about how many working Saturdays there should be per year turned into a direct confrontation between the management and a large group of the enterprise' workers.

It seems to me that we should learn a lesson from this incident, and not just for the leaders of the Yaroslavl "Avtodizel" and the Ministry of the Automotive Industry. Alarm signals about disdainful attitudes to workers' opinions and critical appeals are received from many enterprises, including well-known enterprises such as Leningrad's "Kirovskiy Zavod" Association. Workers at the Tikhvin production facility, which is part of the enterprise, write in anguish and alarm about production disorders, lack of rhythm, discord between related production facilities, and a low technical standard of equipment. All this engenders major doubts in people as to the possibilities of working in conditions of self-capitalization.

"I had appealed to the management a great deal on all the sore points, but to no avail. It was only with the assistance of the rayon newspaper that we managed to secure the replacement of some welding machines. But do we really need to write all the time? Does the association management really not know about our defects? It knows! But do we get any sense out of it? We do not even see representatives of the management here: They come, they count up figures in the shop chief's office, and they go back."

Master craftsman Valentina Andreyevna Ryabova made very correct observations (judging by the text, she wrote the letter on her own, but it was then in fact signed by an additional 20 people). Somehow it has come about in economic practice that plant leaders much prefer to deal with diagrams, metal, and figures than with the living people under their supervision. Even the labor collective councils often meet not to consult but just to listen to edifying words and instructions from the managers who lead them. It is yet another of the very widespread signs of managerial ineptitude that are slowing down the involvement of working people in production management and restricting the economic rights granted to them. It is no accident that just before the Law on the State Enterprise came into force, the question of labor collective councils' activity came up again in the editorial mail. It would appear that Article 7 of the Law provides a full interpretation of the tasks, rights, and duties of the collective council as a kind of legislative organ of the enterprise, but nonetheless misgivings are expressed that this organ could simply remain a passive management appendage.

The misgivings are not without foundation. The support and trusteeship of local party committees are clearly very important here. One of the main directions for restructuring party work taking account of the operation of the Law on the State Enterprise must evidently be of constant concern for the efficiency and militancy of labor collective councils. Analyzing the stereotyped phrase "participation of working people in production management," Candidate of Economic Sciences N.D. Lubyanov writes:

"The concept of 'participation' is a passive concept. It can mean remaining silent, saying yes, or advising others, but not assuming responsibility. Management means thinking, deciding, taking personal responsibility."

The letter's author very appropriately recalls V.I. Lenin's remark that absolutely nothing can be done in any particular sphere without interest, awareness, cheerfulness, efficacy, determination, and independence on the part of the workers.

Democratization of the managerial ladder makes it possible to combine more effectively planned leadership with the interests of the individual and the labor collective. It is theoretically and practically indisputable, the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum noted, that the interests of working people as the masters of production are the most powerful interests and the most powerful motive force for the acceleration of socioeconomic and scientific-technical progress.

Prices' 'Disorganizing' Effect on Resource-Saving

PM221113 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jan 88 Morning Edition p 2

[Letter from Academicians M. Agoshkov, M. Styrikovich, and N. Fedorenko and Prof K. Gofman under the "Editorial Mail" rubric: "The Price of Natural Assets"]

[Text] The past 20 years have set a record for the number of administrative measures aimed at improving the way we use nature. All of them, however, ranging from the elevation of environmental protection to the level of a constitutional demand to the fining of economic managers, have failed to achieve the desired result. It is our profound conviction that the reason is the absence of economic protection for natural assets within the framework of the old economic management system. Economic protection of that kind is only possible on two conditions—the transition form purely formal (or rather fictitious) to the real and full economic accountability [khozyaystvennyy raschet] of enterprises and the use of the full price of natural resources in the relations of economic accountability.

The first condition is the core of the fundamental restructuring of the economic mechanism and thus needs no explanation. The second condition is more complicated—what does the term full price mean, that is, a price which promotes the rational use of natural assets?

This question is by no means new as far as our economic science and practice are concerned. It was raised by Academician S.G. Strumilin back in 1963 in an article entitled "On the Price of Nature's 'Bountiful Gifts'." Our prices for stocks of timber (payment by the stump) have been in existence for 30 years, and payments by industrial enterprises for water and for some types of minerals were introduced in the seventies. But the fact is that for many years economic theory has failed to recognize the link between the finite nature of natural resources and their price. But price-formation practice, using theory as cover, set the prices too low, thereby compensating for its inability to achieve a real price reduction in the national economy.

There are two well-known ways of establishing prices for natural resources. Under the first method, prices are determined in terms of the cost of reproducing (replacing) the natural resources consumed. For example, the price of the fuel or raw materials produced is determined in terms of the cost of prospecting for and surveying new deposits, the price of timber is fixed on the basis of the cost of cultivation, and so forth.

The second method takes into account not only the cost of the reproduction of the natural resources as such but also the exploitation costs of the newly developed resources in comparison with those being consumed. For example, the dwindling oil resources of the Volga Region must be replaced by deposits in Siberia, where not only prospecting but also the extraction and transport of oil are many times more expensive. This factor is taken into account by the second method of evaluating natural resources—based on their differential rent.

Of course, the price of the finished product including the differential rent is higher than the rent-free price (or that which takes account of only part of the rent). But differential rent is an integral component of the world prices for fuel, energy, and raw materials. In our planning practice, indicators of the value of output which include an assessment of the rental value of the natural resources being used have been called all-inclusive [zamykayushchiye] costs.

The price-formation mechanism makes it possible to exclude differential rent from the price structure and to set prices below the level of all-inclusive costs. It was customary for many years to interpret this as an advantage of the planned economy. However, such a policy had a certain point only during the period of the extensive development of our economy. Under present conditions, when resource-saving is becoming the main source of economic growth and enterprises are transferring to a system of full economic accountability and self-financing, the retention of "rent-free" prices is an economic precondition for the wasteful use of natural resources.

The saving of every tonne of oil from a "cheap" deposit, that is, a more accessible deposit, means reducing the national economy's use of more expensive sources of fuel and raw materials. If the price of oil is based not on all-inclusive costs but on the sector's average cost of extraction, the use of resource-saving techniques may be less advantageous to an enterprise than the loss of a surplus tonne of oil. It is no accident that the existing wholesale prices for oil have created a false impression of the inefficiency of many of the means of increasing the return of oil-bearing strata which are widespread in world practice but not used in our country.

If we use the existing wholesale prices as the basis, it seems economically untenable for the ferrous metallurgy raw materials balance to include the by-product oxidized ferruginous quartzites whose annual production (80-90 million tonnes) is deposited in dumps which occupy an

increasingly large area of farmland. In the future, however, oxidized quartzites should be a new and highly efficient raw material in the ferrous metal industry, and may significantly check the increase in iron ore costs.

The existing prices are also a substantial obstacle to the solution of the problem of the comprehensive exploitation of deposits. For example, with the comprehensive exploitation of the Sokolovsko-Sarbayskoye deposit ores, from which it is possible to extract not only iron but also nickel, copper, zinc, and sulfur, it is inefficient to assess the additional output at wholesale prices (the period taken to recoup capital investments is more than 30 years). But when assessing this output in terms of prices which include differential rent, the annual economic impact of the comprehensive exploitation of ores amounts to R5.7 million.

Those are just some of the many examples of the disorganizing effect of prices on resource-saving.

For the sake of fairness, it should be said that the many years of work by scientists upholding economically valid methods of evaluating fuel and raw materials resources have left their mark on planning and projects. In technical and economic calculations wide use is also made of the all-inclusive fuel and energy cost normatives recommended by the USSR Gosplan, the State Committee for Science and Technology, and the USSR Academy of Sciences which take account of differential rent. But these normatives must also be used in price-formation, a point which has been made many times in the documents of prestigious scientific forums, ranging from the 1966 All-Union Conference on problems of the USSR's fuel and energy balance to the decision of the 24 June 1987 joint session of the bureaus of the USSR Academy of Sciences' economics department and physical technical problems of power engineering department.

The "Provisional Standard Methods for Economic Assessment of Mineral Deposits" were approved back in 1979. Those methods, formulated by an authoritative collective of scientists of the USSR Academy of Sciences and sectorial institutes, provide for the use of all-inclusive costs in the assessment of deposits in all cases where their significance does not coincide with current wholesale prices. They are to be used as the basis for formulating methods regarding individual kinds of minerals and carrying out the corresponding valuation work. The USSR State Prices Committee was entrusted with approving such methods. That department's opposition to the principle of all-inclusive costs, however, resulted in methods being approved regarding just five of the several dozen types of minerals over the past 8 years.

Under its former leadership the State Prices Committee was equally vigorously opposed to the introduction of payments for natural resources on the basis of differential rent. What was used instead were rates of compensation for the costs of reproduction of natural resources, which take no account of their finite nature and so are several times below the appropriate rent valuations (six times with regard to oil, for example). The USSR law "On the State Enterprise (Association)" contains a clear indication of the need to introduce payments for natural resources in accordance with differential rent (Article 17, Paragraph 3). Under the conditions of the upcoming price reform it is extremely important to realize this requirement of the law in full.

However, the start of work on preparing new prices shows that the orientation is still toward average sectorial costs and the desire not to take full account of differential rent. As long ago as 1985 N.T. Glushkov, former chairman of the USSR State Prices Committee, argued this position in the "Pricing Guide" as follows: "In scientific discussions and practical work questions are being raised increasingly persistently on the need to take fully into account in the price the all-embracing payment for the resources being used, including natural and labor resources... However, the effect of these payments on the enhancement of social production efficiency has not yet been ascertained. Within the framework of the existing economic mechanism the introduction of payment for production capital, as well as for other resources, has not produced the desired results and, conversely, has had an obvious impact on the growth in prices... Taking the said circumstances into account, the USSR State Prices Committee does not support the further extension of payments for resources."

Indeed, under the old economic mechanism all economic levers, including payment for resources, fulfilled the role of a "fifth wheel on the cart." But now, under conditions of full economic accountability and self-financing, a policy of saving resources and making rational use of nature is possible only if it is economically advantageous to enterprises. For the sake of achieving this goal it is possible and necessary to make a certain additional increase in wholesale and purchase prices and, on this basis, introduce full payments for the use of nature and abandon the preferential (frequently almost symbolic) prices widely applied now to energy sources for individual groups of consumers. Here, of course, it is necessary to revise the obviously overstated wholesale prices of many types of products of the manufacturing sectors. Only on the basis of rent valuation of natural riches is it possible to compare costs and the work results of enterprises in water management, forestry, and geological surveying and transfer them to full economic accountability.

The pricing organs' struggle against unsubstantiated price rises is absolutely essential. **But in this case it is a question not of the raising of prices with a view to making unlawful profit but of artificially understating prices contrary to the state interests of saving resources.** The policy of understated fuel and raw material prices has already done considerable harm to our economy, and under conditions of full economic accountability its wasteful nature could manifest itself on a considerably larger scale.

Agricultural

State Committee on 1987 Production

LD231534 Moscow TASS in English 1450 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow January 23 TASS—The overall volume of the output of the Soviet agri-industrial complex amounted to 460 billion rubles in 1987—1.8 per cent up against the previous year, the USSR State Committee for Statistics reported today.

The value of the output of the agricultural sector was 220.1 billion rubles last year—9.3 per cent more than the average annual level of the 11th Five-Year-Plan period (1981-1985).

Follow the figures of the output of the main agricultural crops: grain—211.3 million tons, raw cotton—8.1 million tons, sugar beet—90 million tons, sunflower seeds—6.1 million tons. The output of potatoes, vegetables, fruit, berries and grapes was smaller in 1987 than in the previous year.

The growth of the output of stock-breeding products permitted to bring the per capita annual average consumption of dairy products in 1987 to 343 kg and of eggs—to 270, in other words, to reach the level planned for 1990.

Capital investments to the development of the agri-industrial complex, including the industries supplying agriculture with the means of production amounted to 63 billion rubles, or 101 per cent of the set level.

The USSR State Committee for Statistics reported as well that 49 agri-industrial complexes, 14 agricultural firms and 19 agri-industrial associations had been created for the sake of raising the efficiency of production, developing creative initiative of working people and upgrading the democratic character of economic management of enterprises and organizations.

Mild Weather Helps Crops; Early Spring Probable

LD222344 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 22 Jan 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Summary] Our correspondents speak about the state of preparation for spring in the agro-industrial system. Valeriy Golubev notes that in the currently mild conditions about a third of winter sowings have begun to shoot. Frosts are not envisaged and an early spring is more probable. He stresses the opportunity to utilize the potential of well-developed winter crops to obtain good grain by supporting sown crops with fertilizers and pest repellents. In general he stresses the need for real readiness, and not on paper, and being fully provisioned with seeds. He notes that machinery repair is proceeding more slowly than last year with an acute shortage of spare parts. Concerning seeds, he says that 18.5 million tonnes of them are needed for spring sowing, but that according to the State Statistics Committee, farms do not have such a quantity at their disposal and the state insurance fund—which kolkholzes and sovkhozes last year understocked by about 1 million tonnes last year—does not cover the deficit. To ensure sowing, enterprises of the USSR Ministry of Grain Products have selected 1.25 million tonnes of grain from the best technical consignments for release to farms on the basis of exchange or loans, but these are not of high quality.

Further on Weather Conditions

LD241330 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0700 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Report by T.A. Maksimenkova, senior scientist of the USSR Hydrometeorological Center]

[Text] In the period 11-20 January the overwintering of wintergrain crops passed well. Almost everywhere in the European part of the USSR they were under a snowcovering. Snow was absent only in Moldavia, Western and southwestern Ukraine, and in the majority of the northern Caucasuses, but there were no severe frosts there, either. The minimum temperature of the soil at the depth where the winter crops' tillering nodes lie remained within the limits of -2° to -4°.

On the major part of the Baltic territory, on the remaining part of the Ukraine territory, and in the south of the Volga area economic region the depth of snow cover as of 20 January on fields with winter grain crops was not very great—1-6 cm, with about 10 cm in places. But the minimum air temperature did not fall below -6° to -15° which presented no danger to the winter grain crops.

Agricultural workers are not expecting frosts but where this is possible they should carry out snow retention.

In the east of the northwestern region, in the major part of the Central and Central Chernozem Regions, in the south of the Volga-Vyatka Region, and in the north of the Volga Region winter grain crops are protected from the unfavorable effects of low temperatures by a snow cover mainly over 15 cm deep. On the major part of the territory of the northern Urals region and in the north of the Volga-Vyatka Region there were severe frosts in the second half of the past 10-day period. But winter crops here were under a thick snow cover of over 30 cm and there was no danger to the crops.

In western Siberia the conditions for the overwintering of winter crops were favorable. The crops were under snow cover with a depth of about 25-35 cm. In places it was over 35 centimeters thick.

Scientific

'Progress-34' Supply Craft Docks With 'Mir'

LD230258 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0200 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow, 23 Jan (TASS)—At 0309 Moscow time today, the docking of the Progress-34 cargo craft with the Mir manned complex was carried out.

The mutual search, approach, controlled final approach, and docking were carried out with the aid of on-board automatic equipment. These processes were controlled by the Flight Control Center in cooperation with the ground command-and-measuring complex, and also with Cosmonauts Titov and Manarov.

The Progress-34 craft has been docked to the complex from the side of the Kvant module. Fuel for the station's joint propulsion unit, foodstuffs, water, equipment and apparatus, as well as mail have been delivered into orbit.

According to telemetric information data and the crew's reports, the on-board systems of the Mir manned complex are operating normally.

Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov are feeling well.

Cosmonauts Unload Craft

LD230934 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0700 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Last night Cosmonauts Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov were working. They took part in the operation of docking the Progress-34 automatic vessel with the Mir manned complex. This is the first transport vessel that the crew will unload over the next few days. Over 2 tonnes of various cargo has been delivered into orbit—fuel for the station's motor installation, new scientific apparatus, extra equipment and instruments to increase the equipment of the base block, water, and 300 kg of food products.

Today's work and rest routine was thus somewhat disturbed, and the crew is now resting. According to reports from orbit and telemetry data, everything on board the complex is in order. The cosmonauts' health is good and they feel well.

Crew Performs Tasks

LD250701 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0304 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Cosmonauts Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov are continuing their flight onboard the scientific research centre Mir. Today the crew is starting to unload the Progress-34 cargo ship. The cosmonauts will have to move about a ton of various cargoes, foodstuffs, new scientific apparatus and instruments, and supplementary equipment.

In the course of the day, the crew also will perform a number of scheduled tasks. Within the framework of the international program of outer astronomy experiments, several series of research projects using the "Roentgen" orbital observatory have been mapped out. The work on the near-earth orbit has been proceeding in accordance with the schedule. Both cosmonauts are well and in good health.

Activities of 'Cosmos-1870' Updated

LD251618 Moscow TASS in English 1531 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow January 25 TASS—By the TASS correspondent at the Ground Control Center:

The satellite Cosmos-1870 launched into a near-earth orbit on July 25, 1987, is continuing its mission.

In keeping with its flight program, over the past six months it has regularly used its radar to scan Soviet territory and individual sea and ocean areas and studied charged particile flows in near-earth space.

Its on-board television equipment designed to take pictures of the surface of the earth is currently being checked up and conditioned for operation on commands from ground control.

Scientific information conveyed by Cosmos-1870 has been relayed to the Soviet space agency's research and production center Priroda for analysis and use in various areas of research and the national economy.

Thermonuclear Power Conference in Leningrad Ends

LD212007 Moscow TASS in English 1955 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Leningrad January 21 TASS—Correspondent Sergey Davydov writes:

Soviet Tokamak installations have confirmed the correctness of the chosen way of harnessing the energy of thermonuclear fusion. Therefore the next step can be taken—the creation of an experimental reactor and the technology of a thermonuclear power station. So technical questions have now moved to the forefront where they join purely scientific ones.

This was discussed at a three-day conference on problems of thermonuclear power generation that ended here today. The Soviet participants and their foreign colleagues heard reports on the creation in the USSR of the world's first big Tokamak-15 thermonuclear installation with superconducter winding, and on other results in this field.

"On the Tokamaks we have attained a temperature and duration of containment and density of plasma that are maximum close to ensuring a controlled thermonuclear

reaction", the TASS correspondent was told by Academician Vasiliy Glukhikh. "By the middle of the next century such reactors will occupy an important place in the world power industry. Their advantages are high efficiency and ecological safety". Another important consideration is that such stations will need a minimum of natural resources, he added. The reaction rules out the possibility of an explosion. It is just as important that such stations will not be a potential source of products for the manufacture of atomic weapons, Academician Glukhikh said.

Work in this field has witnessed extensive international cooperation for many years already. The design of Soviet Tokamak installations has become international and is being used in almost all research centres.

Academy's Perception of Press 'Regrettable'
PM211639 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jan 88 p 2

[L. Zagalskiy article under the rubric "A Matter of Substance": "What Did the Press Do To Upset the President"]

[Text] The USSR Academy of Sciences has been reinforced by 255 scientists who were elected as full and corresponding members. That was the result of the elections held recently. There were, of course, many more candidates for election.

There were three candidates for election to the academy who failed to win the necessary number of votes. After all, elections are elections. But some people blamed these failures on... "press interference" in the academy's affairs. The point is that the press published material on all three candidates, critically reporting their scientific and social activity.

For example, G.I. Marchuk, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, noted in his comments on the election results: "There were also... complaints about the press which, unfortunately, affected the outcome of the elections at their final stage, and this at times created difficulties in the process of discussion and prevented the making of objective decisions. It seems to us that it would be more effective to conduct public discussions at earlier stages of the election campaign."

On the basis of this comment, one could conclude that press materials earned only negative assessments by members of the academy. But quite a few statements—just as many, as a matter of fact—expressed full support and approval for the material published by newspapers and journals.

A scientist who acquires the title of academician is given an opportunity to exert a significant influence on the development of science in his area. This is why it is especially important to examine each nomination by involving broad public opinion, especially in view of the fact that the title of academician is bestowed for life and that the election mechanism itself is far from perfect.

"I believe that broad discussion of nominees for election to the academy in the press is not only important but also extremely necessary," Academician A.L. Takhtadzhyan said. "It is obvious that a biologist academician who votes for, say, a philologist who is to be elected, knows nothing at all about him. True enough, brief information reports about candidates are distributed among us before the start of the general meeting (about 1 hour before). But this year's election lists included hundreds of names, and it was impossible to even scan through them. This opinion is also shared by Academicians I.M. Gelfand, S.P. Novikov, and A.D. Aleksandrov, with whom I have spoken on the telephone. [end quotes not supplied]

Now about the claim that public discussions must be conducted "at earlier stages of the election campaign." The VESTNIK AKADEMII NAUK published the list of nominees for election virtually on the eve of the election. What earlier stages can we talk about here?

It is regrettable that the academy's leadership perceives the press as just a source of undesirable disturbance rather than as a loyal ally of those forces within the academy that sincerely strive for renewal and democratization.